

The pride of North Carolina's electric cooperatives

Volume 31, No. 9 September 1999

Carolina country

True stories
about country fairs



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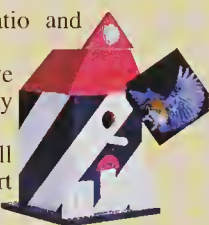
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(By Frank K. Wood)

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"Roaches!"

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(By J. Robson)

Have you ever seen a roach run out of a bowl as you were about to put food in it? Well, I have. Just turn out the lights and an army of roaches would attack the whole house.

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On the Cover

St. Egbert's Catholic Church offers shrimp and shark at the North Carolina Seafood Festival, Morehead City. This year's annual waterfront event in Morehead City is Oct. 1-3.
(N.C. Tourism, Film and Sports Development photo)



QVC

Mr. Lighting Says

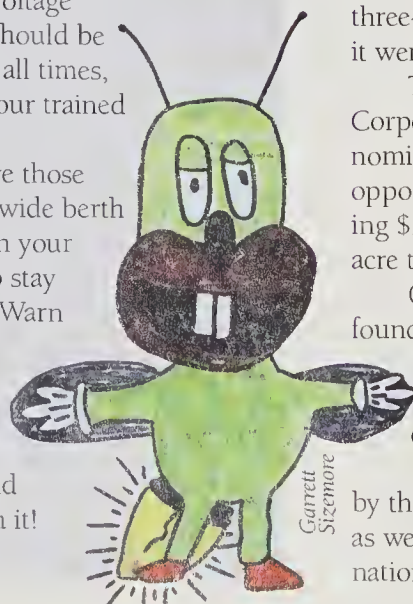
"Transformer enclosures are pretty enough"

If your home is served by underground electric cable, you may notice the dark green, metal cabinets that house transformers. Please consider them pretty enough as they are, and don't plant flowers or shrubs around them.

Our line crews need easy access to those transformers to perform maintenance and repairs. Shrubs and trees and even flowerbeds can block access, and after the work is done, you'll be unhappy about the state of your plants.

Also, it's simply dangerous to plant or work close to these transformer cabinets. They contain high-voltage lines that should be avoided at all times, except by our trained personnel.

So give those cabinets a wide berth – and teach your children to stay away, too. Warn them not to play around the transformer. And never open it!



QVC will build its biggest distribution center in Edgecombe County

QVC, the TV and Internet electronic retailer, will build its fourth and largest distribution center near Tarboro, bringing a \$70 million investment and some 1,000 jobs to Edgecombe County.

The 1-million-square-foot QVC facility is expected to open in June 2000. The site is east of Rocky Mount on U.S. Hwy. 64 near Kingsboro railroad station and Interstate 95.

QVC broadcasts live 24 hours a day, 364 days a year marketing jewelry, home furnishings, fashions, electronics and other products. Some 250 products are introduced each week to viewers in more than 70 million homes. In 1998, more than 62 million packages were shipped to customers. QVC's other distribution centers are in Lancaster and West Chester, Pa., and Suffolk, Va.

The decision to locate here came after many months of negotiation and planning among business and government representatives – nationally and locally – including early involvement of the local utility, Edgecombe-Martin County Electric Membership Corporation.

The facility's initial load of just over 5,200 kilowatts will add approximately 10 percent to the electric cooperative's peak demand. QVC will add another 1,000 kw by June 2001. Plans call for nearly doubling the size of the initial building and a total load of approximately 9,000 kw.

QVC will locate on 300 acres of a 600-acre "megasite." Edgecombe County has already obtained an option on another 250-acre site across U.S. Highway 64 from the site, and approximately 2,000 more acres are available in the immediate vicinity.

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC General Manager Jim Kinghorn, said, "It is truly rewarding to see the hard work of a large team of determined citizens show a payback such as this."

From the cooperative perspective, Kinghorn credits the EMC board of directors with the insight to take a risk on the electrical facility investment that will be necessary to serve the industrial site. "Several years ago, after a number of hasty proposals made in attempts to attract industries, we decided if we were to have any chance at all it would be necessary to commit an investment up front," Kinghorn said. "Our board authorized the engineering design of a transmission line to serve an area with no identified customer."

The cooperative began planning and engineering a 3-mile transmission line tap and substation to serve up to a 50-megawatt load.

No water lines, sewer lines or natural gas service and a relatively limited capacity EMC three-phase line had restricted interest in the site. Once the EMC had a plan for its facilities, it went after the other pieces of the utility puzzle.

The package included a loan from the North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation's long-term investment fund for economic development projects. "This economic development fund gave the Edgecombe-Martin County EMC board of directors the opportunity to make a second 'leap of faith'," said Kinghorn. The board authorized borrowing \$500,000 from NCEMC to reloan to Edgecombe County to purchase outright the 300 acre tract.

Once the county had the EMC's commitment to loan the half million dollars, they found additional funds and purchased 600 acres as one contiguous parcel.

The North Carolina Department of Commerce was able to get a special "Megasite Project" designation for the property. Edgecombe Community College made specific employee training packages available for prospective clients of the site.

Kinghorn added that the consultant QVC hired to scout the project was impressed by the EMC and NCEMC staffs, including the co-op's key accounts manager Eddie Stocks, as well as the testimonials of other large accounts they serve, and the association with the national Touchstone Energy program.



As Seen on TV

Made possible by Touchstone Energy

During the Wednesday evening broadcast of the "NewsHour with Jim Lehrer" on Public Broadcasting System TV stations, North Carolina viewers may notice one of the newest sponsors: Touchstone Energy.

The 23 electric cooperatives who are members of the

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evenings through next July.

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Touchstone Energy partners embody "The Power of Human Connections" by providing enhanced services and resources while maintaining a commitment to integrity, accountability, innovation and community awareness. More than 550 Touchstone Energy partners nationwide represent some 15 million consumers in 38 states.



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Texas electricity market will open in 2002

The Texas legislature this spring passed a bill intended to open the electric service market in that state by 2002. Among the key provisions are these.

- A freeze on the rates of investor-owned utilities until 2002, then a 6 percent rate cut.
- Electric cooperatives and municipal utilities and electric cooperatives may decide when and if they will open their markets to competition.
- Utilities now operating in the state can't lower rates more than 6 percent until they lose 40 percent of their customers to rivals.
- Older power plants must clean up emissions by September 1, 2003.
- New power providers serve a certain number of residential users or pay a fine.
- Utilities may refinance at least \$3.3 billion in debt with low-interest bonds and charge consumers fees to make the bond payments.
- The state will continue to regulate power transmission and distribution.
- The Texas Public Utility Commission can make and enforce rules to protect consumers.

New members named to state panel studying the future of electric service

House Speaker Jim Black (D-Mecklenburg) this summer announced his appointments to the General Assembly's Study Commission on the Future of Electric Service, the panel studying the deregulation of electric utilities.

The commission's work has been slowed by the length of the 1998 legislative session, which ended in late October 1998, and shortened the time for many study panels to meet, and by the change from Republican to Democratic control in the House.

Black's appointees will replace members appointed by former Speaker Harold Brubaker (R-Randolph). They are Rep. Ronnie Smith, (D-Carteret) as House co-chair; and Reps. Phil Baddour (D-Wayne), Donald Bonner (D-Robeson), Bill Hurley (D-Cumberland), Mary Jarrell (D-Guilford), Danny McComas (R-New Hanover), Ed McMahan (R-Mecklenburg), Bill Owens (D-Pasquotank), and Drew Saunders (D-Mecklenburg). Black also named Terry Callender, Henry Knight and Lee

Kindberg as public members.

McComas, McMahan, Callender and Knight were reappointments.

Meanwhile, a Boston-based consulting firm hired by ElectriCities, the state's association of municipal electric utilities, has challenged a recent report for the commission on ways for the 51 municipalities to pay off \$5.8 billion in debt for their partial ownership of generating plants. The report by Research Triangle Institute seemed to suggest the cities' best option would be to get out of the electricity business and sell their plant and distribution systems to power companies. But the ElectriCities consultant, LaCapra Associates, said the RTI study's numbers were wrong and its assumptions flawed, according to the News & Observer of Raleigh. LaCapra concluded RTI overestimated the value of the cities' plant assets that might be sold to reduce debt. Instead of \$2.1 billion estimated, LaCapra found those assets to be worth between \$200 million and \$500 million.

Fort Benning chooses an electric co-op

Georgia's Fort Benning on June 1 became the first U.S. Army base to convert its electricity distribution system to a private utility. Fort Benning chose Flint Electric, a cooperative in central Georgia.

The move was in response to the U.S. Department of Defense initiative to privatize some electric distribution systems now run by and for military bases. Flint Electric is one of four electric utilities that submitted project bids.

Fort Benning's director of public works said Flint Electric can operate and maintain the base's electric utility infrastructure more economically and with state-of-the-art technology while the base concentrates on training soldiers.

Flint has sufficient capacity to purchase, upgrade, expand, maintain and operate Fort Benning's system. Flint Electric receives no government subsidies through low interest loans or other

programs. Therefore, taking over Fort Benning's electric utility operations provides a true savings to the government and the U.S. Army. The cooperative pays more than \$2.2 million annually in local, state and federal taxes.

Like many of North Carolina's electric co-ops, Flint Electric is also a Touchstone Energy Cooperative, the largest unified electric utility network in the United States, with more than 550 partners and 15 million customers nationally.

Fort Benning's 44,000 volt, 557-mile distribution system and seven substations will become part of Flint Electric's existing distribution system. Fort Benning serves 21,000 military personnel, their 20,000 dependents, 6,500 civilian employees working on post and 43,000 area retirees who are served by Benning's facilities.

When the refugee camp in Albania needed an electrical system, Ken Thomas was there

By Rick Martinez

The return of refugees to Kosovo this summer is much more than a news story to Ken Thomas, a 17-year employee of Haywood Electric Membership Corporation in western North Carolina. His friends -- 29-year-old Valon Maloku and his family -- were among the hundreds of thousands of refugees returning to an uncertain future and possibly even more tragedy in Kosovo.

In early June, Ken Thomas spent a week in Hamallaj, Albania at a refugee camp. He was volunteering for Samaritan's Purse, a non-denominational Christian aid and relief organization headed by Franklin Graham, son of North Carolina evangelist Billy Graham.

A few weeks earlier, Valon Maloku and his family fled Kosovo with only the clothes on their backs and a videotape. Serbian troops had occupied their village and had beaten Valon's uncle to death. Valon hid his family in the attic of their ransacked home. At one point, when Serb forces entered their home, only complete silence concealed the family's location from the troops below them. After nine days, the troops left the village and under the cover of the midnight sky, seven members of the Maloku family packed themselves in a vehicle the size of a Volkswagen Rabbit and escaped to Albania.

The Malokus made their way to Tirane, the Albanian capital, and were taken in by relatives they had never met. One of Valon's cousins, 19-year-old Julian, was a Samaritan's Purse driver and all around gofer. When Julian discovered Valon had considerable electrical skills and two years of electrical engineering education, he notified the Samaritan's Purse refugee camp coordinator.

Samaritan's Purse hired Valon and gave him a simple task -- help design and build an electrical system for a 180-acre refugee camp designed for 10,000 people. It was a daunting task for Valon who had long ago given up electrical engineering and instead had built a successful wedding dress business in Kosovo.

It was during the design phase that Valon met Ken Thomas and Haywood EMC electrical sub-contractor Steve Kirton. It was an awkward meeting.

"He didn't trust us," Ken recalled. "But he didn't trust anybody, and who could blame him after what he and his family had been through? And to tell you the truth, we weren't too impressed with him either."

But soon the Americans began learning from Valon's superior understanding of European electrical systems. "Valon is very sharp," Ken said. "Some of his ideas on the (system) layout were far better than some of the ideas we came up with. We were kind of embarrassed we didn't think of some of them. He was surprised we valued his opinion."



Haywood EMC's Ken Thomas (center) helped set up this generator that powered a refugee camp reservoir in Albania. Valon Maloku (left) of Kosovo assisted.

Something to Share

Respect turned into friendship and culminated in Thomas and Kirton being invited to Tirane for a family dinner of rice and chicken. After dinner, Maloku played the videotape of his wedding, the only personal possession he had brought from Kosovo. Laughter and happy reminiscences gave way to somber reality as family members pointed out wedding goers who are unaccounted for or have been killed. Among the missing people in the tape was Valon's sister.

"It was a very eerie feeling and that's when the reality of the situation over there really hit me,"

Thomas said. "For most Americans, Kosovo is maybe 20 minutes worth of news. Yet, here I was with Valon, his

5-year old girl and 3-year old girl and his pregnant wife -- people who a few weeks earlier literally had to run for their lives. I thought of my own wife and two boys and was so thankful that they don't have to worry about whether they will eat tomorrow or if a member of the family will be beaten. It made me realize how much freedom we do have and how we take it for granted."

Valon told Ken Thomas the family would return to Kosovo, if for no other reason than to find his sister. Valon knew his three stores had been destroyed and his house probably was burned. When Ken left Albania, Valon didn't know what he would do for a living. He said it's doubtful people will want to spend money on wedding dresses.

By late July, as the NATO military pressure on Serbia had ceased and a rebuilding process begun in Kosovo, Ken had not heard whether the Maloku family had returned to their village. Yet the Albanian experience has changed him. Today, he takes nothing for granted and is thankful for all his blessings including his job at Haywood EMC. "Working at the co-op has not only given me skills to provide for my family, but has given me something I can share with others."

Thomas's time and skills weren't the only donation the co-op made in Albania. All the tools and materials Ken Thomas took to Albania were left there -- courtesy of Thomas and Haywood EMC. Ken said they would be put to good use.

Rick Martinez is manager of communications and creative services with the North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation.

Although the refugee camp in Hamallaj was closing in July, Samaritan's Purse continues its mission in Gjakova, a city 60 miles away in Kosovo that was destroyed by the Serbian military on the eve of NATO bombing. For more information, contact Samaritan's Purse, P.O. Box 3000, Boone, NC 28607. Or visit the Web site at www.samaritan.org

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to accept the things
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Two by two...

Footprints
One night a man had a dream. He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the Lord. Across the sky flashed scenes from his life. For each scene he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand; one belonged to him, and the other to the Lord.
When the last scene of his life flashed before him, he looked back at the footprints in the sand. He noticed that many times along the path of his life there was only one set of footprints. He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in his life.
This really bothered him and he questioned the Lord about it. "Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you, you'd walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life, there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why when I needed you most you would leave me."
The Lord replied, "My precious, precious child, I love you and I would never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."

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Honoring Robert H. Knowlton Jr.

Some time this fall, John L. Johnson, who lives in western New York state, plans to visit North Carolina to see where his cousin Roger died. Mr. Johnson no doubt would not be coming this way except for an article he read in Carolina Country magazine.

Last May, Jan Johnson, who once lived in western New York and now lives in Lincoln County, read the story in our "Nothing Could Be Finer" series written by Frank Laffitte of Fayetteville ("A Sign of Humanity"). Mr. Laffitte referred to a memorial honoring four members of the U.S. Army Air Corps who died Aug. 27, 1943 in the line of duty near Hwy. 210 when the plane they were flying crashed there. Local residents erected the marker in memory of the soldiers and inscribed their names, including "Sgt. Roger H. Knowlton, age 22, Rochester, N.Y."

Jan Johnson sent the story to a newspaper columnist she knows in Rochester, who published the bit about Sgt. Knowlton. John Johnson read about it, and now he and four other cousins of Sgt. Knowlton who live in western New York know about the memorial. Mr. Johnson told us that Sgt. Knowlton's father, Harold, served in World War I, and his brother, Donald, a World War II veteran, lives in Illinois. Young Robert was buried in his family's plot in Rochester.

John L. Johnson can be reached at 1010 Strong Rd., Victor, NY 14564.

Frank Laffitte is pleased that he has made the connection for the family. He tells us the marker is located on Hwy. 210 in Bladen County beyond the Smiths Crossroads intersection about five miles southeast of where Hwy. 210 crosses Hwy. 41.

One thing about cooperatives hasn't changed

By Philip L. Wally



This is the 60th year that our electric cooperative –

Union Electric Membership Corporation – has distributed electrical power and services to the 5-county area east of

Charlotte. Our service area — once a loose network of fields, farm roads, family homesteads and backwoods — now lies within the fastest-growing region of the state.

Union Electric has grown at the same amazing pace as our economy and culture. As a utility, we have had no choice but to grow along with our membership, to stay along the front edge of emerging trends in business, technology and customer service.

But I have been in this business long enough to notice that there is one major thing about Union Electric that has not changed since 1939. And I know the same is true for the 26 other electric cooperatives like ours in North Carolina. Our fundamental corporate character is the same one that our grandparents created when they formed cooperatives to bring power and energy to the countryside. Our heart and soul are made up of the collective strength of every member of the cooperative – then and now.

You can see the heart and soul of Union Electric at our annual meeting, coming up in a few weeks on Oct. 2. There you can see the people who give us our strength and direction –

grandparents and grandchildren, parents and students, managers and workers, sisters and brothers – come not only to pay serious attention to the business of their cooperative, but also just to see one another, to feel part of a community, to take pride in the progress of the business they own.

Many of the cooperatives across the state this fall will have their annual meetings. Each of those meetings reflects the character of the cooperative, just as the boards of directors they elect represent the composition of the communities they serve.

No other utility has such an event as a meeting for all their customers. No other utility puts on a meeting that blends business with the pleasures of a family reunion or community fair. And, of course, no other utility is as close to its customers and communities as cooperatives are.

I hope you appreciate your co-op's annual meeting as much as I do ours.

Philip L. Wally is executive vice-president and general manager of Union EMC, which serves 40,000 homes and businesses in Union, Stanly, Cabarrus, Mecklenburg and Rowan counties.

Light Lines

by Donna Hardy



"Dang! That watermelon weighs more than your momma!"

Upcoming Electric Cooperative Annual Meetings

| Cooperative | Date | Place | Registration | Business | Contact |
|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|------------|----------------|
| Roanoke Electric | Saturday, Aug. 28 | Hertford County High School | 11 a.m. | 1 p.m. | (800) 433-2236 |
| Albemarle EMC | Saturday, Sept. 18 | Perquimans County High School | 12:30 p.m. | 2 p.m. | (252) 426-5735 |
| EnergyUnited | Saturday, Sept. 18 | Davie County High School | 8 a.m. | 1 p.m. | (800) 522-3793 |
| Brunswick EMC | Saturday, Sept. 25 | Odell Williamson Auditorium | 8 a.m. | 10 a.m. | (910) 754-4391 |
| Carteret-Craven | Saturday, Sept. 25 | Crystal Coast Civic Center | 4:30 p.m. | 7 p.m. | (800) 682-2217 |
| Central EMC | Friday, Oct. 1 | Dennis A. Wicker Civic Center | 6 p.m. | 7:30 p.m. | (919) 774-4900 |
| Surry-Yadkin EMC | Saturday, Oct. 2 | Surry Central High School | 8:30 a.m. | 10:30 a.m. | (800) 682-5903 |
| Union EMC | Saturday, Oct. 2 | Wingate University | 7 a.m. | 10 a.m. | (800) 922-6840 |
| Four County EMC | Monday, Oct. 4 | Pender High School | 6 p.m. | 7:30 p.m. | (910) 259-2171 |
| Lumbee River EMC | Tuesday, Oct. 5 | Givens Performing Arts Center | 6 p.m. | 7:30 p.m. | (800) 683-5571 |
| Pee Dee EMC | Thursday, Oct. 7 | Anson Senior High School | 6 p.m. | 7:30 p.m. | (800) 992-1626 |
| Rutherford EMC | Saturday, Oct. 30 | Freedom High School | 9:30 a.m. | 11 a.m. | (800) 521-0920 |
| Pitt & Greene EMC | Thursday, Nov. 11 | LCC Snow Hill Campus | 6 p.m. | 7 p.m. | (800) 622-1362 |
| Tri-County EMC | Saturday, Nov. 15 | Mt. Olive College | 11:30 a.m. | 1:30 p.m. | (800) 548-4869 |

The Haliwa-Saponi were here, too

Barry Richardson, tribal administrator of the Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe, pointed out an omission in our "Roads Less Traveled" guide to North Carolina's "scenic byways" [May 1999]. The article was excerpted from a book published this year by the N.C. Department of Transportation.

Mr. Richardson noticed no mention of the Indians who lived in the region covered by the byway called "Lafayette's Tour." "Lafayette's Tour" covers 173 miles through the historic and picturesque region of north-eastern North Carolina from Halifax through Murfreesboro, Gatesville and into Great Dismal Swamp to Lynch's Corner.

Indeed, descendents of Saponi, Tuscarora and Nansemond peoples inhabited this area when French statesman Marquis de Lafayette toured here in 1825, after his assistance to the American colonies during the Revolutionary War. They most likely moved here from less hospitable territory and settled in a place in the Hollister and Essex areas that became known as the Meadows in today's Halifax and Warren counties.

The Haliwa (coined from Halifax and Warren)-Saponi were officially recognized as a tribe by the state in 1965. The tribe maintains a host of educational, cultural and economic development programs. Its longtime leader, W.R. "Talking Eagle" Richardson was honored with the state's highest citizen award this year, the Order of the Long Leaf Pine.

For additional information, contact Haliwa-Saponi, P.O. Box 99, Hollister, NC 27844. Phone: (252) 586-4017.



The Haliwa-Saponi run a craft shop that offers pottery, baskets, beadwork and jewelry. (252) 586-7382.

Help Wanted

Looking for a song

I wonder if anyone has a copy of this song:

I'm going there to meet my mother,

I'm going there to die no more.

I'm just going over Jordan,

I'm just going over home.

Thank you.

Lucy E. Epley

2295 Old Shelby Rd.

Hickory, NC 28602

Looking for recipes

I spend 4½ months in North Carolina from early June to mid-October. We get your wonderful magazine year-round and enjoy it. Unfortunately, I do not bring with me from Florida any of my tried and true recipes. So when our homeowners association has a covered dish luncheon for its annual meeting, and our wonderful neighbor has given us six ears of home-grown corn, I am at a loss!

Is there a Carolina Country cookbook I can order? I grew up in Winston-Salem and learned to cook watching my Georgia-raised mother cook using fresh North Carolina produce my father raised in his "victory garden." I guess that tells you how old I am!

Any help you can give will be appreciated.

June Sloan

1082 Alpine Drive

Blowing Rock, NC 28605

Editor's note: Among the many North Carolina cookbooks that come through this office, we could not single out one. But we did refer Ms. Sloan to the Carolina Kitchen collection on our Web site: www.carolinacountry.com



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| \$ 70,000 | \$ 489.45/mo. |

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"Afternoon Flight"

BY BOB TIMBERLAKE

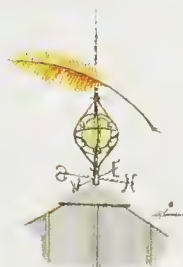


IN CELEBRATION OF THIRTY YEARS OF FINE ART,
The Bob Timberlake Gallery is pleased to offer Bob Timberlake's most recent offset lithographic reproduction entitled "Afternoon Flight." This beautiful reproduction will be available as a special time-limited edition with orders being accepted from September 13 through November 13, 1999.

The image area of "Afternoon Flight" is 24 $\frac{3}{8}$ " x 18"
on 100% rag paper stock measuring 30 $\frac{3}{8}$ " x 22 $\frac{1}{2}$ ".
The issue price of the reproduction is \$250.00 plus
\$10.00 shipping and handling. (North Carolina
residents will need to add 6% state sales tax of \$15.00).

The size of the edition will be determined at the
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The **Bob Timberlake**
Gallery

The Bob Timberlake Gallery

1714 East Center Street Extension
Lexington, North Carolina 27292

1-800-244-0095

www.bobtimberlake.com

MasterCard and VISA accepted.

Gallery Hours: Monday-Friday: 10 am to 6 pm
Saturdays: 9 am to 5 pm

Directions: Interstate 85 to Exit 94,
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nothing
could be finer

CAROLINA COUNTRY FAIRS

Blue ribbons, pink ladies,
greased pigs and
500-pound gorillas

Sights and sounds
of a simpler time

Who hasn't felt the
excitement of the local fair?

It's one of those events that we all
experience in one way or another. And
they are memorable experiences, too,
because they are so out of the ordinary that
they're almost forbidden. Plus, there's always
someone there taking pictures.

I go to at least one fair every year. As a kid
(which wasn't all that long ago), my goal was to eat
as much fried dough and cotton candy as I could
get away with. Then I concentrated on winning a
goldfish for my little sister. Later, I threw every soft-
ball, shot every air gun and played every horse race
just to win a big stuffed bear for my girl Brenda.
(Never did win that bear, or her, either.) These days
— although I am still attracted to "the smallest
woman on earth" at the state fair — local prizes
impress me more: the 4H kids who stay all night
with their animals, the food at the church booths,
the committee who works year-round to plan a fes-
tival that thrills the soul of the community as much
as it does the 7-year-old on the merry-go-round.

On these pages are some of the fair experi-
ences that affected you. Thanks to everyone who
sent in stories. I wish we could publish more.
Next month: a selection of photographs you
made of North Carolina people and places.
(Deadline was Aug. 15). For the year's
remaining themes, see page 15.

—MG

The memories of a country fair are some of the most
pleasant and happy that I have. They not only remind
me of how people can come together and have fun
without all of today's high tech toys, but they also
take me back to a simpler time.

It was a time when at the sound of a holler
20 or 30 kids ran screaming to catch a greased-up pig.
What was the prize? The pig, of course. Also, standing
in the middle of the field was a peeled poplar pole with
lard spread on it from the ground to the top. On top
was a green five-dollar bill. Man, what fun!

There were steer pulls, workhorse pulls, a molasses
mill where the horse goes round and round guided by
the long pole attached to him or her. In another corner
the clang-clang of horseshoes was heard along with the
shouts of dads through the smoke and "baccor" spit. Then
there were all the exhibits of the year's hard work of can-
ning, growing pumpkins and drinking gourds.

I myself entered three beautiful home-grown tomatoes
and took home a red ribbon. Oh, how proud! This took
place at Camp Hope in Cruso, N.C., in Haywood County.
So, do you remember now?

Basil B. Deaver
Canton
Haywood EMC member

Everyone was a winner

It was 1996, and we had our third child that spring. She was born premature and had stopped breathing over 120 times by that fall. We had not all been out in public as a family in six months due to the baby's health. My sister offered to baby-sit for a few hours so we could take our other children out for some uplifting.

The Dixie Classic Fair in Winston-Salem was to be held in October. When I called for information, the staff informed me of some special event entries. We had never entered anything in the fair before. We decided to enter a parent-child baking contest. Our oldest daughter entered an essay contest.

With our baby under the protective watch of my sister, we headed for the fair that bright Sunday afternoon. We found the children's essays displayed in a log cabin in "Yesterday Village" with a blue ribbon on our daughter's! Her essay about her grandparents had won first place! Then I heard my name announced by the baking contest pavilion. I won third place with the oatmeal cookies my son and I had made! We were so surprised and uplifted. We'll never forget that dream-like day.

Tricia St. Amant

Southmont

EnergyUnited member



At home on The Rides

I can honestly say that I never really got into fairs. I'm more of a book person than a ferris wheel, throw-a-dart-and-win-a-prize, cotton candy person. Yet one fine summer, I was talked into going to one.

It wasn't like I could easily decline going to my county's small local fair put on by the fire department. The natives of McDowell County don't even call it a

fair. The small, mottled array of amusements in the Wal-Mart parking lot was known simply as "The Rides." And I didn't particularly want to go to The Rides. But my boyfriend's little brother was 12 and persistent. I agreed merely for the fact that I knew my boyfriend and I would have more privacy in a fair than alone with a pesky 12-year-old.

To say The Rides were small is a gross under-exaggeration. The ferris wheel wasn't as tall as my church's steeple, and the passing cars were going faster than the roller coaster. But it was cute. And in a very large way it held the essence of my home county.

This year I will attend NCSU in Raleigh, home of the N.C. State Fair. I thought about it as I held my boyfriend's hand at the top of the ferris wheel here in McDowell County. "I will soon be thrown into a much larger life than this," I thought. And yet, somehow, I was satisfied just sitting up on top of the world (or about 20 feet in the air) and looking around at this area that has been my home for most of my life.

Elizabeth Graham

Ncho

Rutherford EMC member

Finding Mommy at the fair

When I was about three years old, our family lived in a little cotton mill village called East Monbo, NC. There were mom and dad and eight of us kids. My dad and my oldest sister and two older brothers worked in the cotton mill.

Times were hard because it was during the Great Depression, and the only entertainment we had was the ball game on Saturday evening. The whole mill village came out to watch. My older brother played on the team, so we never missed a game. Even when I came down with whooping cough, Dad took me right on into the ball park.



But my most favorite memory is of the county fair held each year around the middle of August. One year I remember well. Dad told Mom we were going to go to the fair the next day, and since we didn't own a car we would be going in the old one-horse wagon. So Dad put straw in the wagon bed, and Mom put quilts on top of the straw. Dad filled up the old kerosene lanterns.

Bright and early the next morning we started out for Troutman, which was about six miles away. Mom had fried up a big platter of chicken, baked apple pies, sweet potatoes, a basketful of biscuits and a large bag of parched peanuts and a jug of water. We took enough for dinner and supper, because we planned to stay until after the fireworks were over about 11 p.m.

They had a merry-go-round that you could ride for a nickel. Everything went well until I looked up and I was all alone. Somehow my parents had walked away while I was-

MORE

n't looking. I was terrified and began to cry. A young boy came by and asked me what was wrong. I told him I could not find my mommy, and he said, "What is her name?" I said, "Mommy."

A few minutes later I saw the most beautiful sight a little lost girl could ever see. It was my Mom and Dad coming to find me.

Mrs. Faye S. Woods
Statesville
EnergyUnited member

The day my brother was proud of me

After I won my fifth-grade class spelling bee, this school-level honor placed me in the next round of competition at the Wayne County Agricultural Fair Spelling Bee.

On the day of the fair contest, my parents both had important commitments at work. They pressed my older brother, Dennis, into service to accompany me. Dennis is a serious sort who had a young family to support and a farm to manage. I was disappointed that Momma and Daddy could not go and sure that my brother would consider my "little spelling bee" unimportant.

Dennis sat patiently in the smelly livestock arena with all the other nervous parents as word by word my peers were eliminated. When it was announced that I had won, I looked over at my brother. There on his face was the biggest grin I have ever seen, before or since.

Afterwards he escorted me around the fairgrounds and declared my victory to everyone he knew. I was elated! I was the Wayne County Fair Spelling Bee Champ AND my brother was proud of me. (He always had been; I just had not realized it.) It was a shining moment between us.

Renee P. Futrelle
Mt. Olive
Tri-County Electric member

Turning heads in Iredell County

The Iredell County Rescue Squad, while providing standby emergency medical services for the county fair, also taught basic first aid to willing fair attendees. We taught quick lessons in CPR using our CPR training mannequin.

Once, as the fair closed, we found the case used to transport the life-size training "dummy" missing. Assuming it stolen, we summoned a sheriff's deputy. As the deputy filled out his report, the dummy was placed on a cot and, for fun, we covered it with a white sheet before placing it into the squad ambulance for the ride back to headquarters.

A large crowd gathered, curious about the sheet-covered "lady" and wondering about her "death."

The deputy needed the address of the mannequin's manufacturer, so I asked my officer to go into the ambulance and get the information from a tag on the mannequin's neck. Finding the tag difficult to read in the dim light, the officer simply turned the mannequin's head a complete turn, removed it from her torso, and handed the head out the side door to me.

You may imagine the repercussions this had on the bystanders who dispersed quickly, to say the least (except for those that we treated for simple fainting!). Fortunately, there were no heart attacks.

Thomas Edward Fox
Statesville
EnergyUnited member

My father wrestles the 500-lb. gorilla

My father, Bob Crissman, was the wrestling coach at Starmount High School in the late 1960s and early 70s. One year when the county fair came through, some of his wrestlers talked him into going to this fair and getting into the cage with a gorilla. This gorilla weighed 500 pounds, and for every second you could "pin" him, you would be paid \$5.

So my father went without telling my mother. As he told us later, he got into the cage, and he and the gorilla started circling each other. Then my dad "put a move" on the gorilla, knocking him down and stunning him for five seconds. The gorilla then came to, placed both feet on my dad's chest, and kicked, sending my father through the air and into the cage bars.

The gorilla by now was very angry. He got up and was coming for my father when the owner opened the gate and got my dad out, just in time.

The crowd applauded. My father got his money and spent it on the way home at the chiropractor's office.

Risë Harris
Pilot Mountain
Surry-Yadkin EMC member



Caterpillar ghosts

In 1941 I was 8 years old and lived in High Point. One of my pastimes was to listen to ghost stories about a suspected haunted house on English Street.

The fair was in town, and it was located on English Street, also known as the Old Thomasville Highway. I was at the fair one night. I don't recall how I got there; I only remember the excitement and the trip home.

I had enough money for one ride, and I chose the Caterpillar. After one ride, I waited for someone to tell me to get off. A man came by, looked at me and continued on. Before I knew it, I was riding again. After the second ride, I started to leave, and the same man motioned for me to stay on. I suppose he felt sorry for me because I was broke and barefooted. I rode the Caterpillar free for hours. I soon realized it was late and I was alone with no ride home.

My walk home began on English Street and soon became a three-mile horror run. In my imagination, outrunning the ghosts and goblins was the situation at hand. I was horrified when I got home.

My parents were relieved that I was safe. And I was thankful that I outran the ghosts.

James H. King

Gastonia

Rutherford EMC member



Send us your stories and photos. Earn \$50.

When they choose a selection for publication, judges seem to like stories that are clearly expressed, from the heart, and full of North Carolina character. (Most of those we receive have some or all of these qualities, so choosing a few is difficult work.)

The Rules

1. Approximately 200 words or less.
2. Only one entry per household per month.
3. Typed or e-mail, if possible. Otherwise, make it legible.
4. Include your name, mailing address, electric co-op, and phone number.
5. If you want your entry returned, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. *(We will not return others.)*
6. We pay \$50 for each submission published in this series.
7. Send to Nothing Finer, Carolina Country, 3400 Sumner Blvd., Raleigh, NC 27616. Or by e-mail: carolina.country@ncemcs.com

Remaining 1999 Themes

November

My Favorite Holiday Memory
Any holiday.
Deadline: Sept. 15

December

What We Can Do in 2000?
Your advice for the new year.
Deadline: Oct. 15

Saving up for the Drexel Country Fair

I was so excited when I heard the loud grinding noise of the big trucks shifting gears. I ran to my bedroom window. I knew it was just what I had been waiting for: The Drexel Country Fair.

The five of us — my two sisters, two brothers and I — would start looking for a jar just after Christmas to hold our pennies for the wondrous event that would come just before the new school year. We always had such great pride in counting out the coins, rolling them in the wrappers, and the trip to the bank in downtown Drexel.

The fairgrounds were just in walking distance from our house, so each night we could hear the "big boom" at 6 to alert the town that the fair had begun for the night. Our mouths watered from the wonderful smells of the homemade baked goods (used for the cake walks), the smell of the newly laid sawdust, and the musical sounds of the merry-go-round.

Fair time was also a time to cherish your friends. If you had a partner to ride those rides you were uneasy about riding yourself, it made it a little less scary.

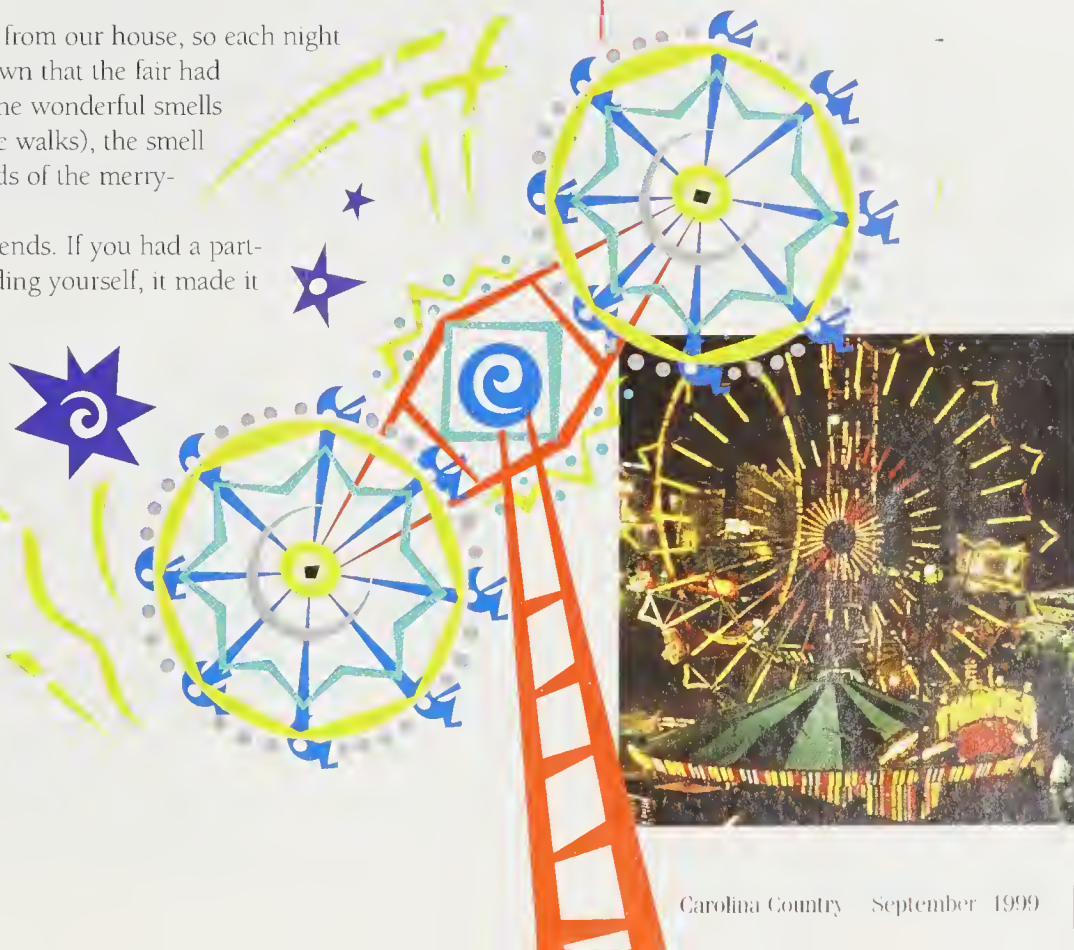
Saturday night was bittersweet to us kids, because it was the ending of the fair. Friends and family would gather in the back yard to pick out just the perfect spot to spread your blanket (mine was under the clothesline) to see the most marvelous fair works around.

Even though we approach the year 2000, the Drexel Country Fair still has that down-home country atmosphere with the big city excitement, just as it did was when I was a child.

Barbara Kennell

Morganton

Rutherford EMC





SEE YOU

It's fair season in Carolina Country. Besides all the county agricultural fairs that celebrate the bountiful production of our farms and gardens, communities across North Carolina take advantage of sparkling autumn weather to recognize such home-grown favorites as seafood, livermush, gourds, barbecue and woolly worms.

Mountains

Caldwell County Agricultural Fair
Lenoir
Aug. 24-29
(828) 728-7050

Hickory American Legion Fair
Hickory
Sept. 1-6
(828) 322-6616

NC Apple Festival
Sept. 3-6
Hendersonville
(828) 697-4557

Iredell County Agricultural Fair
Statesville
Sept. 6-11
(704) 528-6176

NC Mountain State Fair
Fletcher
Sept. 10-19
(828) 687-1414

Historic Morganton Festival
Morganton
Sept. 10-11
(828) 438-5252

Avery County Agricultural Fair
Newland
Sept. 14-18
(828) 733-3642

Macon County Fair
Franklin
Sept. 15-19
(828) 369-3523

Livermush & BBQ Festival
Shelby
Sept. 18
(704) 484-2001

Cove Creek Farm Heritage Days
Sugar Grove
Sept. 18-19
(828) 297-2200

Alexander County Fair
Taylorsville
Sept. 21-25
(828) 632-2226

Everybody's Day
Thomasville
Sept. 25
(336) 475-6134

Haywood County Fair
Waynesville
Sept. 28-Oct. 3
(828) 456-3575

Wilkes County Agricultural Fair
Millers Creek
Oct. 12-16
(336) 838-4942(W)

Fish Camp Jam
Gastonia
Oct. 16
(704) 853-3474

Mt. Glory Festival
Marion
Oct. 16
(828) 652-2215

Chatham County Agricultural & Industrial Fair
Pittsboro
Sept. 7-11
(919) 362-5825

Agricultural Fair
Greensboro
Sept. 10-19
(336) 271-2710

Alamance County Agricultural Fair
Burlington
Sept. 10-18
(336) 228-6106

Greensboro Agricultural Fair
Greensboro
Sept. 10-19
(336) 271-2710

Cabarrus County Agricultural Fair
Concord
Sept. 11-18
(704) 786-7221

Bush Hill Heritage Festival
Archdale
Sept. 11
(336) 434-2073

Gourd Festival
Cary
Sept. 11-12
(919) 362-4357

Stokes County Agricultural Fair
King
Sept. 12-18
(336) 983-3602

Cumberland County Fair
Fayetteville
Sept. 13-18
(910) 438-4140

Halifax-Northampton Agricultural Fair
Roanoke Rapids
Sept. 14-18
(252) 537-0161

Cleveland County Fair
Shelby
Sept. 30-Oct. 9
(704) 487-0651

Thomas Wolfe Festival
Asheville
Oct. 1-3
(828) 253-8304

Forest Festival Day
Pisgah Forest
Oct. 2
(828) 877-3130

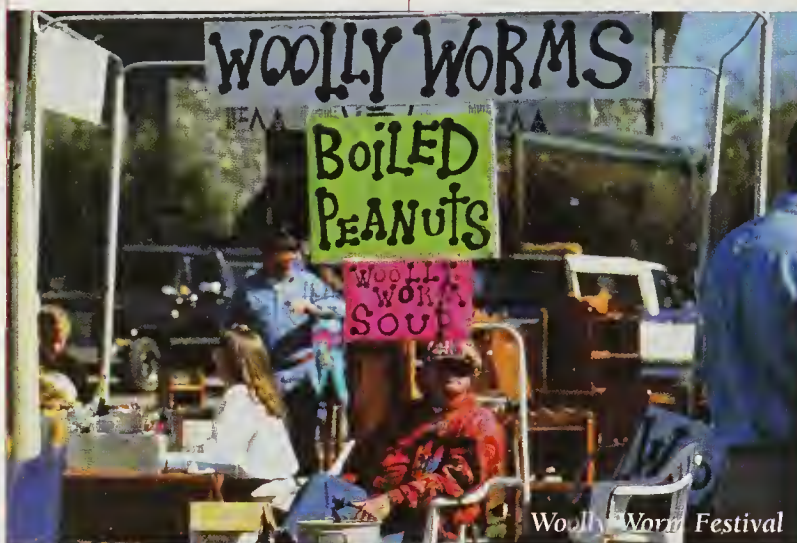
Burke County Fair
Morganton
Oct. 5-9
(828) 437-8431

Woolly Worm Festival
Banner Elk
Oct. 16-17
(828) 898-5605

Caswell County Agricultural Fair
Yanceyville
Oct. 19-23
(336) 694-6700

Piedmont

Matthews Alive
Matthews
Sept. 3-6
(704) 849-3825



Woolly Worm Festival

AT THE FAIR

photos courtesy of NC Tourism,
Film and Sports Development

Stanly County Fair
Albemarle
Sept. 14-18
(704) 983-2913

Tar River Festival
Louisburg
Sept. 18
(919) 496-3056

Deep River Park Festival
Gulf
Sept. 18
(919) 837-2361

**Davidson County
Agricultural Fair**
Lexington
Sept. 20-26
(336) 243-2528

Rowan County Fair
Salisbury
Sept. 20-25
(704) 633-5632

Surry County Agricultural Fair
Mount Airy
Sept. 20-25
(336) 786-2236

**Warren County
Agricultural Fair**
Macon
Sept. 20-25
(252) 257-4270

Stokes StompFest on the Dan
Danbury
Sept. 25-26
(910) 593-8159

International Folk Festival
Fayetteville
Sept. 26
(910) 483-2073

Moore County Agricultural Fair
Carthage
Sept. 28-Oct. 2
(910) 947-2774

Vance County Regional Fair
Emporia, VA
Sept. 28-Oct. 2
(804) 348-3378

Dixie Classic Fair
Winston-Salem
Oct. 1-10
(336) 727-2236

**Richmond County
Agricultural Fair**
Hamlet
Oct. 4-9
(910) 582-4586

Lee County Fair
Sanford
Oct. 5-9
(919) 774-4555

John Blue Cotton Festival
Laurinburg
Oct. 9-10

NC-SC District Fair
Monroe
Oct. 11-17
(704) 283-5846

Person County Fair
Roxboro
Oct. 11-16
(336) 503-0534

North Carolina State Fair
Raleigh
Oct. 15-24
(919) 733-2145

The Apple Festival
Eden
Oct. 16
(336) 627-5148

Novello: Festival of Reading
Charlotte
Oct. 18-23
(704) 336-2020

N.C. Barbecue Festival
Lexington
Oct. 23
(336) 956-1880



N.C. Barbecue Festival

Coast

Lenoir County Fair
Kinston
Sept. 13-18
(252) 523-4155

**Harbor Days, Waterfront Arts
Festival and Moth Boat Regatta**
Elizabeth City
Sept. 18-19
(252) 335-1453

Wilson County Fair
Wilson
Sept. 20-25
(252) 237-8443

Craven County Agricultural Fair
New Bern
Sept. 21-25
(252) 635-5055

Rocky Mount Agricultural Fair
Rocky Mount
Sept. 27-Oct. 2
(252) 977-3247

**Wayne Regional
Agricultural Fair**
Goldsboro
Sept. 27-Oct. 2
(919) 735-7277

Chowan County Fair
Edenton
Sept. 28-Oct. 2
(252) 482-7706

Onslow County Fair
Jacksonville
Sept. 28-Oct. 3
(910) 346-3871

North Carolina Seafood Festival
Morehead City
Oct. 1-3
(252) 726-NCSEF

Columbus County Fair
Whiteville
Oct. 4-9
(910) 642-7585

Pitt County Agricultural Fair
Greenville
Oct. 4-9
(252) 758-6916



N. C. Seafood Festival

Robeson County Fair
Lumberton
Oct. 4-9
(910) 738-2126

Duplin County Fair
Kenansville
Oct. 6-9
(910) 296-2468

Down East Festival of the Arts
Rocky Mount
Oct. 9
(252) 972-1159

Scuppernong River Festival
Columbia
Oct. 9
(252) 796-1371

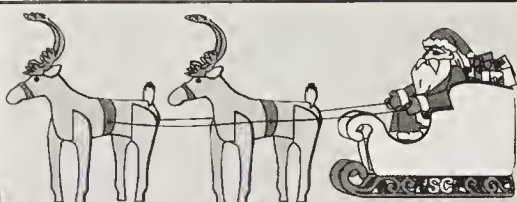
Swansboro Festival
Swansboro
Oct. 9
(910) 353-0241

Atlantic District Fair Association
Ahoskie
Oct. 11-16
(252) 332-4553

New Hanover County Fair
Wilmington
Oct. 14-23
(910) 313-1234

NC Oyster Festival
Shallotte
Oct. 16-17
(910) 754-6644

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Nov. 6
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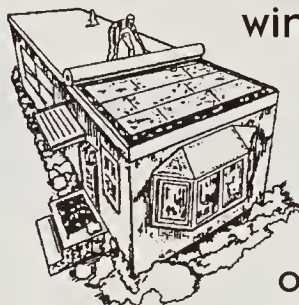
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Tying together the threads of heritage

"Morning Star" (top) and "Olive Leaf" (bottom)



Buffalo Creek Weavers continues

It was 1837. The passenger ship carrying him to America had sunk in the North Sea. James Cash Goodwin, wet and tired, bobbed in dark water so cold he lost his hearing. Clinging to a wooden trunk that safely held his family's weaving patterns, he was leaving Macclesfield, England, and the silk weaving business his father started in 1812. But James was determined to reach the young, bustling nation of America and make a name for himself as a weaver.

 He succeeded. Mike Harman in northwestern North Carolina is living proof of his ancestor's determination. In a small mill behind their house in Warrensville, Mike and his wife, Dana, weave bedspreads with a century-old loom. The rare colonial patterns they use are even older, dating back to the early 1700s from such places as Scandinavia, Scotland, England, Kentucky, Tennessee and North Carolina.

Mike's aunt, Mary Goodwin, the 5th generation family weaver, instilled in him the importance of the family's heritage, and has been a great supporter of Buffalo Creek Weavers, supplying old weavings, pattern drafts, photos and her wealth of family and weaving knowledge.

Weaving is pretty much all Mike has done his entire life, except for two tours in Vietnam as a paratrooper and several years in the early 90s working odd jobs.

"It's a labor of love. We don't make much money but we sure do enjoy it," he says. "We are proud to be the sixth generation and our kids the seventh generation, and hope they will carry the history and heritage on into the future to where it can be handed down and done over and over, as long as these old looms will last."

A Weaving Family

The shipwrecked James Cash Goodwin eventually made it to Maryland. He then moved to Cumberland Gap, Tenn., where he built a water-powered mill. The mill is a restaurant today, complete with the water wheel.

His son, Charles, moved the business to Cedar Bluff, Va., on the Clinch River. Charles taught his four sons, including Mike's grandfather, John, the art and tradition of weaving. The family also went in search of weaving

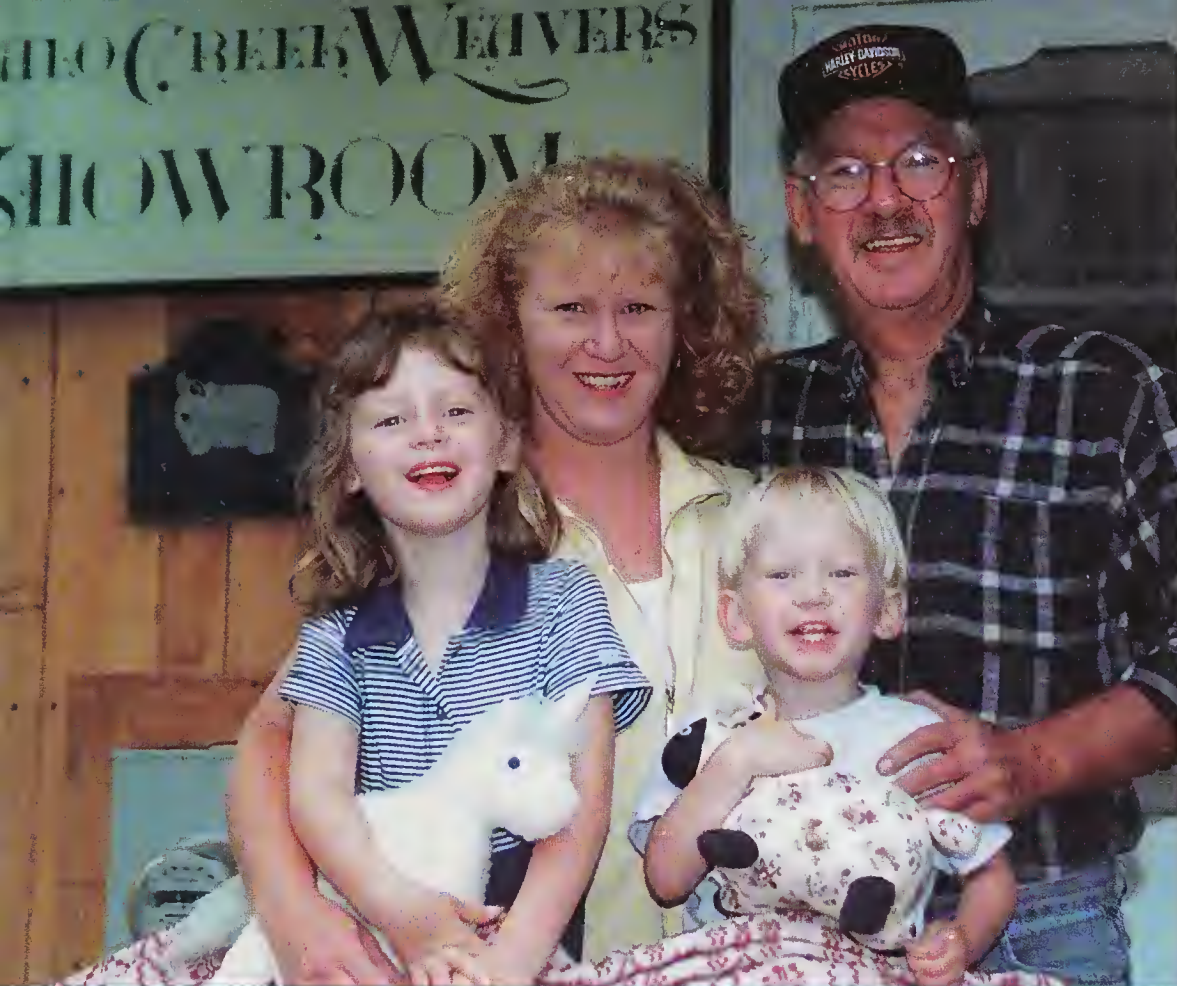
patterns. They traveled throughout the southern United States, trading bedspreads for food and goods and help. They would study farm wives' handloom patterns, then draw drafts of the patterns on paper scraps. These drafts would help in setting up the loom.

The Virginia mill also cranked out wool blankets, sleeping bags and liners for the U.S. Army and British Royal Navy during WWI and WWII. After the war, the contract ended and they shut down the mill.

"My grandfather then moved to Blowing Rock, with looms, equipment and patterns in tow, leased land and opened the Goodwin Weavers mill," explains Mike Harman. "I worked there with my grandfather until 1972. We then purchased land and built a bigger mill in 1973. Granddaddy died in 1974, but he died happy and proud that he owned a working mill."

In 1990, the Goodwin family sold the mill and the name to the Crown Craft

Text and photos by Renee Gannon



Mike and his wife, Dana, of Buffalo Creek Weavers, represent the 6th generation of the Goodwin family weaving tradition. Their children, Ashlyn, 5, and Jake, 3, will be the 7th generation. For the first year, Mike and Dana stuck with three patterns: the Lover's Knot with the pine tree border, from 1730s Scandinavia; Whig Rose, an old Tennessee pattern; and Honeycomb, from the 1820s. This year, they're expanding to six patterns, adding Olive Leaf, Birds and Roses, and Snowflake.

two centuries of tradition

Corporation. The company didn't want the old equipment, however, so the family stored the looms and equipment in a burley tobacco warehouse in Boone.

That old weaving equipment stood dormant in the warehouse for eight years, until Mike and Dana came to rescue it.

Returning to Roots

Mike Harman has never met a stranger. He is quick to tell tales that are mostly truthful, and he makes the most of life's twists and turns. With Dana he has a common bond – a loving wife and mother who faces life with a smile, grit, a sense of pride and a love of tradition.

After a short stint in Florida several years ago, the Harmans decided to move back to the North Carolina mountains in January 1998. They settled in the small community of Warrensville, in Dana's home county of Ashe. Dana shared Mike's love of the weaving tradition, and both wanted to return to the business.

A heavy snowstorm in February 1998 became the catalyst. The snow caved in the roof of the burley tobacco warehouse where the old looms and equipment were stored.

"The building owner called and told me I had 10 days to move 80,000 pounds of looms and equipment or they would be destroyed," recalls Mike. "Five looms, thousands of pounds of gears and parts, a warping machine, a spool-

ing machine, bobbin winder, even an old washing machine and spinner built in 1884."

Hamptons Body Shop in Boone offered its services and rollback trucks to help the Harmans move the equipment. The transport took 21 trips back and forth from Boone to Warrensville. And all the equipment was dumped in the Harman's backyard.

"We didn't have a shelter, nothing," says Mike. "We bought \$300 worth of the biggest tarps we could find and wrapped the equipment up."

In June 1998, one loom was put into action, and Mike and Dana began weaving under the trees and sometime blue skies. They dragged the rest of the equipment out of the backyard to make way for shelter.

All the old looms and equipment were originally water-powered. Grandfather John converted to electricity earlier in the century. Mike still uses the old 1918 electric motor to run the loom. Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation helped him set it up.

"They were able to hook us up with power," says about the electric co-op. "The linemen brought us 220 three-phase electricity all the way from across the creek (about 300 yards). They worked in the rain. We shared stories. They were so polite and nice and excited for what we were trying to do. It was overwhelming. And the co-op has continued to

work with us through all our ups and downs."

To finish the mill, Mike had to put on his best grin and start bartering. Strapped for cash, he traded a bedspread for 67 tons of gravel spread in the backyard. He and Dana dug holes for a pole barn workshop and weaving mill. Little by little the small weaving mill took shape. Luckily, people really liked these bedspreads.

"We traded bedspreads for lumber at the sawmill. Bedspreads to the electrician for wiring, and bought my wife's van with eight bedspreads," Mike says. At one time, he was standing in line at the Blue Ridge Electric office in West Jefferson, bedspread in hand, ready to barter for his electric bill. Another customer in line saw the bedspread and offered to pay cash for it right then. Mike took the cash and paid his bill.

Dana remembers those days: "When we moved here we didn't have two nickels to rub together. Even though we didn't have the building finished, we had to start weaving and sell product for money to build with. That's probably been the hardest, having to do every part of the process, plus keep house."

Buffalo Creek

Mike jokes that the design of the small mill, with its slanting floor and walls, was based on Mystery Hill (a tourist attraction in Blowing

A greasy black "Jacob's Ladder" chain (bottom right) runs from the floor to the top of the loom and down again. Mike explains this is the pattern the loom follows, similar to an old computer punch card. He sets the pattern chain and the loom's harness frames according to original patterns drafted out on paper scraps (bottom left).

Rock famous for its off-kilter Mystery House). A rough-textured wood-slat building, the weaving mill behind the office isn't much to look at, but it serves its purpose — and Mike and Dana built it themselves, using what they had, could find or barter for.

A rack of eight spools of thread, a divider, a warping machine built in 1886, a bobbin winder and one of the 125-year-old looms take up most of the space. The other looms sit either wrapped up in bright-blue plastic tarp outside or just within the mill collecting dust, for now. The old wooden handloom Mike's ancestors carted around by wagon from farm to farm sits in the corner, awaiting the day when it too will be restored and put into service.

Ingenuity The mill reeks of it: upside down living room lamps for light, an old wood stove for heat, a baby monitor positioned under a fire alarm (the monitor speaker is in the house), an orange juice can telephone (the can and the bolt inside it are attached to a string that runs from the mill to the house). The kids' discarded stuffed animals and toys line a shelf just under the roof.

The loom, with all its greased gears, cogs and wheels, works just as well today as it did last century.

Weaving is a labor of love, with the emphasis on labor. It takes one to one-and-a-half months to set up the pattern chain, draw in the harness frames from the pattern draft, spin the spools with thread, wrap the warp with thread from the spools, then load the loom. About 90 to 100 bedspreads are made from one warp of cotton thread.

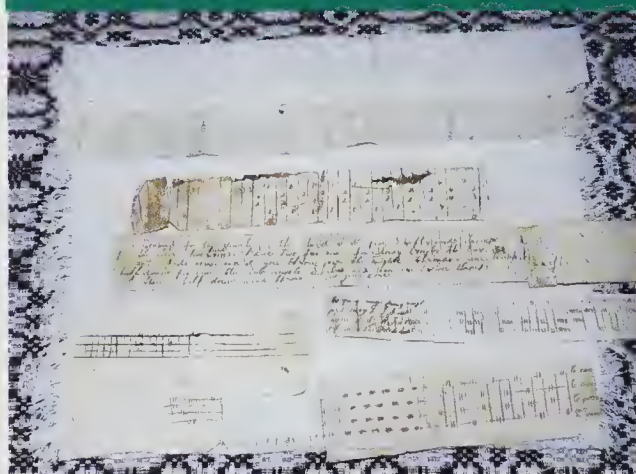
The Harmans average one to three bedspreads a day, depending on the mood of the loom and the weather conditions. (Moisture affects the old loom and the dog-wood shuttles used to weave.)

"It's a big recipe, and just the two of us are doing it," Mike says. "We take pride in our work, we take our time and try to make it as perfect and authentic as possible."

Dana had never stood in front of a loom until five of them were dumped in her backyard. "He taught me how to run the loom, do the patterns," she says. "I love it though. If I could stand there and weave all day, I'd be happy. Just watching the pattern build and build on that old loom is amazing."



Authenticity and Ingenuity



Living history

The Harmans want to share that satisfaction of watching a bedspread pattern build on an old loom. They plan to organize a living history museum to showcase the heritage and tradition of weaving — from the Indians to modern manufacture. They would like to make the museum out of logs and harness a stream for a water wheel. They envision a mural painted on the museum walls depicting the history of weaving.

"We want to educate all ages," says Dana. "We want kids working a handloom, spinning their own yarn. Give them a working knowledge of how weaving is done. Teach them that their shirts are not made at Kmart."

Mike's afraid that if they don't try to pass on the heritage and knowledge of weaving, it will become a lost art. The museum will educate by doing — from shearing sheep, dying wool and spinning cotton to making the finished product.

"We want to make the museum as authentic as possible. We just need lumber, land, money and a running stream," says Mike.

The business has slowly grown as customers show off their bedspreads to other people. And customers are willing to wait four to six weeks for a quality, crafted bedspread. But the Harmans are not in the business to make lots of



money, just enough to survive and build on their dreams. Mike says the satisfaction on someone's face when they buy one of the bedspreads makes him happy.

Surrounding the Harman front porch are some of the thriving, thin-limbed bush locals call a "money plant." Its coin-sized leaves aren't pretty to look at, but when rubbed open, they reveal a bright white lining bearing seeds for future growth. From the outside, the Buffalo Creek Weavers mill may not be much to look at, either, but open its doors and you notice a warmth and pride that reveal the same promise. ❧

For more information on Buffalo Creek Weavers, call (336) 384-1371, or visit the Web site www.doubleweave.com. You may also write to Buffalo Creek Weavers, PO Box 301, Warrensville, NC 28693.

North Carolina State Fair

"Meet me at the waterfalls" at the N.C. State Fair

When you go to the state fair this fall, you can tell your family and friends to "meet me at the waterfalls."

The N.C. State Fair program is building a waterfall scheduled to be completed for opening day. The fair runs this year from Oct. 15—24.

Why a waterfall? It's a pleasing sight and sound, for sure. However, the chief reason is to revive an old North Carolina State Fair tradition. Most of this year's fairgoers are too young to recall the first waterfall, but older citizens may remember that the original waterfall was the traditional place for meeting family and friends at the State Fair.

Fair manager J. S. Dorton, who oversaw the building of the waterfall in 1940, was known for stretching a dollar, and is said to have used only materials left over from other constructions to build the waterfall. The cooling mists from the fall probably contributed as much as its central location to make the waterfall a favorite locale for finding lost parties and — in some cases — true love.

Commissioner of Agriculture Jim Graham tells the story of meeting his wife at the waterfall when it was still new. In 1941, Graham took a break from his studies at State College to attend the fair with some friends. Helen Ida Kirk was chaperoning a group of her Home Economics students from Rowan County. Though the two shared a hometown and knew of each other, they had never actually met. Graham remedied this when he caught sight of her in front of the waterfall. "There was a fellow who sat next to her on the bus riding up to the State Fair," Graham said. "But I took his seat on the ride home."

Like the old waterfall, the new one is centrally located, which makes it an ideal meeting point. Landscaping in the immediate area of the new waterfall will include maples and dogwoods to provide shade for what is sure to be a popular cooling spot. A brick-paved plaza will host several benches and a low, semi-circular wall for seating tired fair-goers.

The popular Dorton Arena entertainment is set, too. Admission for the 7 p.m. shows is free on a first-come, first-seated basis. The line-up is as follows:

Friday, Oct. 15 - Merle Haggard
Saturday, Oct. 16 - The Shirelles
Sunday, Oct. 17 - The Florida Boys
Monday, Oct. 18 - Lonestar
Tuesday, Oct. 19 - The Wilkinsons
Wednesday, Oct. 20 - Ty Herndon
Thursday, Oct. 21 - Blackhawk
Friday, Oct. 22 - The Oak Ridge Boys
Saturday, Oct. 23 - KC & The Sunshine Band
Sunday, Oct. 24 - Lorrie Morgan

Advance tickets for fair admission will be available Sept. 13 at participating North Carolina Winn-Dixie and Hardees restaurants. Other advance ticket outlets will be North Hills Mall in Raleigh, South Square Mall in Durham, Parkwood Mall in Wilson, Colonial Mall in Burlington and Berkley Mall in Goldsboro. Shopping mall sales run Sept. 30 through Oct. 14.

Advance tickets are available outside Gate 9 (off Trinity Road) at the State Fairgrounds starting Sept. 24 and on the first floor of the Agriculture Building from Oct. 4 through Oct. 14.

Tickets at the gate on fair days cost \$6 per adult, \$1 for kids age 6-12, and free for seniors over 65.



Compiled by Renee Gannon

Headliners scheduled at N.C. Mountain State Fair

Visitors to the 1999 Mountain State Fair will have the chance to hear top entertainers nightly during the 10-day run of the fair, Sept. 10-19 at the Western N.C. Agriculture Center in Fletcher.

Scheduled to appear are The Platters, Bellamy Brothers, Isaacs, The Kinleys, Gene Watson, Wade Hayes, Highway 101, Billy Joe Royal, The Marshall Tucker Band and Ty Herndon. All concerts will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Morris L. "Mac" McGough Arena and are free with paid admission to the fair, which is \$4 for adults, \$2 for children 6-12 and seniors 65 and over, free for children 5 and under.

For more information about the N.C. Mountain State Fair, call the Western N.C. Agriculture Center at (828) 687-1414.

National Balloon Rally rises Sept. 16-19

The 26th Annual National Balloon Rally takes off from Iredell County Fairgrounds near Statesville Sept. 16-19. More than 40 multi-colored hot-air balloons from North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Ohio and a few other states are expected during the four-day event.

Some balloons will be specially-shaped, including a 70-foot-tall ladybug. The big rally finale on Sunday afternoon includes a performance by country music star Lee Greenwood.



The rally is sponsored by the National Balloon Rally Charities and benefits Hospice of Iredell County. Ticket prices vary depending on the day. Advanced, discount tickets of \$6 are available through Sept. 17 at all BB&T locations in Charlotte, Hickory, Statesville and the Winston-Salem area. The balloons will be visible throughout the Statesville area. For more information, call the Statesville Tourism Development Authority toll-free at (877) 531-1819.



Preserving the Uwharrie Lakes Region

As North Carolina's Piedmont region becomes one of the fastest-growing areas in the country, local and regional leaders are working on a plan to integrate economic growth with the area's natural resources in mind. The Uwharrie Lakes Region (a portion of the Yadkin-Pee Dee River Basin found in the counties of Rowan, Davidson, Randolph, Stanly, Montgomery, Anson and Richmond) boasts a bounty of rivers, lakes, forests, farmland and unique cultures – all within a short drive of the cities.

The region is positioned to become a haven for outdoor recreationists, cultural and historical tours, farm tours, cottage industries and high-tech/low impact industries. Many see the region as the Central Park of North Carolina.

On Sept. 23-24, researchers from Appalachian State University and the University of North Carolina-Charlotte will present development alternatives for the region at the Central Park Conference, to be held at Robertson College Community Center, on the campus of Catawba College in Salisbury. For more information about the conference, call the Yadkin-Pee Dee Lakes Project at (704) 422-3215.

These chairs are to look at, not to sit on

From Sept. 5 through Nov. 15, visitors to the Folk Art Center in Asheville will see an art exhibit featuring one of civilization's oldest and most technically difficult furniture pieces – the chair.

This year's exhibit, "The Chair Show 3," offers styles ranging from functional and period designs to imaginative interpretations that test the limit of a chair's concept. Some of the country's best known furniture craftspeople and their wares have been chosen for the show, sponsored by the Southern Highland Craft Guild. The exhibit is free and open daily 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, call the Folk Art Center at (828) 298-7928, or visit the Web site at www.southernhighlandguild.org.



Become a Friend of Elizabeth II

The 1999 membership drive for Friends of Elizabeth II is underway. The non-profit organization supports the care and maintenance of the Elizabeth II, a full-scale replica of a sailing ship like those that crossed the Atlantic and reached the Outer Banks in the 1580s. The program has expanded its interest to include all aspects of the new Roanoke Island Festival Park.

As a Friend, members receive season passes to the site and its programs, invitations to events and exclusive member functions, 10 percent off purchases at the Museum Store and a subscription to the newsletter "Elizabeth Fare."

Tax-deductible membership prices are \$15 student (one student pass), \$25 individual (one season pass), \$40 dual (two season passes), \$50 family (four season passes), \$100 participating (six season passes), and \$200 corporate (10 season passes).

For more information on the program or how to join, write to Friends of Elizabeth II, Inc., Roanoke Island Festival Park, One Festival Park, Manteo-on-Roanoke Island, NC 27954. Or call (252) 475-1500.

"Elizabeth II" ship in Manteo.



New winery sprouts in Surry County

In June, Shelton Vineyards broke ground on a 25,000-square-foot winery in Surry County. The winery, located on 330 acres outside of Dobson will be complete by the fall of 2000. When completed, the vineyards will cover 250 acres, the largest in the state.

The Shelton family planted the first grapevine April 1. The vine will produce wine by the fall of 2001. Before then, Charles and Ed Shelton will purchase a variety of grapes from North Carolina, Virginia and New York to allow for the first Shelton wine to be produced by the fall of 2000. A variety of wines will be produced, including Chardonnay, Cabernet, Pinot Noir, Sirah and Merlot. When in full production, the winery, located in the Surry-Yadkin EMC service area, is expected to sell 50,000 cases of wine annually.

The Sheltons also expect the winery to draw more than 1,000 visitors a day. Visitors will be able to take guided tours of the grounds, and sample and purchase wines. "This is a business that has great potential for the Yadkin Valley region," says Ed Shelton. "We believe these vineyards—and others in the area—will have a big impact on the agricultural economy for years to come. . . This is a great way to diversify the farming industry in the area. And people love to tour vineyards. . . we believe we will soon have a great story to tell."

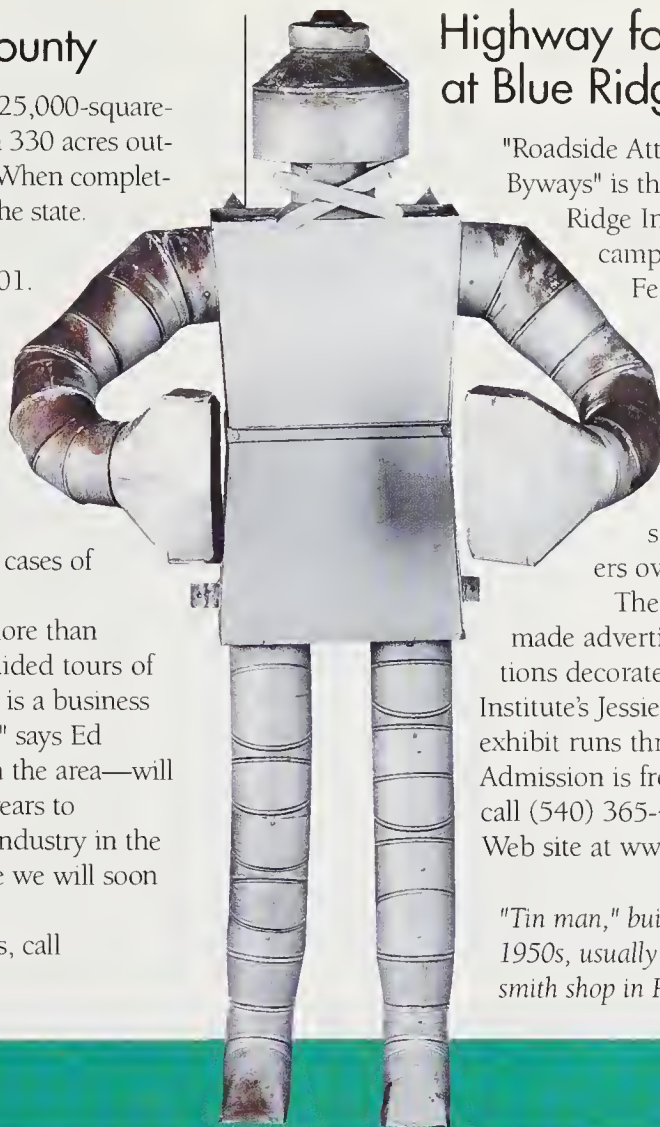
For more information on the Shelton Vineyards, call (336) 366-4724.

Highway folk art showcased at Blue Ridge museum

"Roadside Attractions: Folk Art Along the Byways" is the featured exhibit at the Blue Ridge Institute and Museum, on the campus of Ferrum College in Ferrum, Va. About 45 miles north of the N.C. stateline (north of Martinsville, Va.), the museum features a smorgasbord of traditional art forms that have informed and sometimes amused travelers over the years.

The exhibit features hand-made advertising signs to yard decorations decorated mailboxes. Housed in the Institute's Jessie Ball duPont Gallery, the exhibit runs through March 2000. Admission is free. For more information, call (540) 365-4416, or visit the Institute's Web site at www.blueridgeinstitute.org.

"Tin man," built by Robert J. Kirkner in the 1950s, usually hangs outside the family tin-smith shop in Pulaski, Va.



North Carolina Art



"Fall Fishing"

Looking west from Cape Lookout National Seashore. Photography by Gerald Yokely, "Moments in Carolina," 7599 Hollyberry Ln., Tobaccoville, NC 27050

Get the Flu Shot, Not the Flu

They call it "Senior Vaccination Season."

It's an annual campaign this time of year to vaccinate senior citizens against the flu and pneumonia.

In the 1998 campaign, local health departments statewide provided over 118,000 influenza and 11,500 pneumococcal vaccinations and look forward to increasing those numbers this year.

The honorary co-chairs for this year's campaign are John Hope Franklin, a renowned historian and chair of President Clinton's Racial Initiative and Thelma Lennon, AARP State President for North Carolina.

Influenza (the flu) is a highly contagious, potentially life threatening disease for people over age 65 because it can lead to more serious illnesses such as bronchitis and pneumonia. The flu is not just a bad cold. In 1997 2,162 seniors died in North Carolina due to flu and pneumonia. Remember, the modern flu shot does not cause the flu.

Pneumococcal disease is caused by bacteria that can affect your lungs, bloodstream and brain. Illnesses caused by these bacteria include pneumonia and meningitis. A one-time pneumococcal (pronounced "new-mo-kok-al") shot may give you protection against

pneumococcal disease for a lifetime.

Although the immunizations are at no cost to most seniors (over age 65 and covered by Medicare Part B), only about 40 percent in North Carolina received immunizations last year.

Immunization rates vary greatly by county. Transylvania County over the past three years has been the most successful with almost 57 percent of seniors being immunized.

At the other end of the spectrum, Swain and Warren Counties averaged just over 21 percent of seniors immunized for flu. In addition, there were significant differences in immunization rates when you consider race.

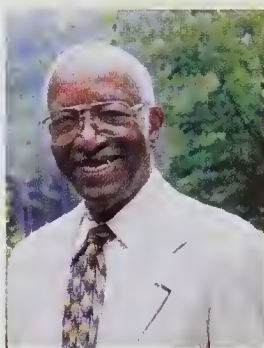
African-Americans tend to be immunized about 20 percent less often than Caucasians.

How can you help?

To significantly reduce the pain, suffering and even death from these preventable diseases, Senior Vaccination Season has to involve the

whole community not just the county public health department. Below are some suggestions for the type of help that would be beneficial. Call the county health department and ask what specif-

This information was supplied by Medical Review of North Carolina, Inc., P.O. Box 37309, Raleigh, NC.



Honorary Co-Chairs, Senior Vaccination Season:
Thelma Lennon, AARP State President for North Carolina,
John Hope Franklin, James B. Duke Professor of History, Emeritus, Duke University

**Call 1-800 LUNG-USA
for times and
locations of the
nearest flu
immunization
clinics or call your
local county health
department.**

- **Bring a friend with you when you get immunized.** If every senior brought a friend with him or her, a significantly higher proportion of senior North Carolinians would get immunized.

- **Tell 10 seniors about Senior Vaccination Season and when and where clinics are being held.** Call your local health department or 1-800-LUNG-USA for the nearest clinic.

- **Hang posters all over the county listing dates, times and locations of immunization clinics.** You can get poster supplies from your county health department or by calling Medical Review of North Carolina, Inc.

- **Contact local newspapers and radio stations to promote Senior Vaccination Season.**

- **If you have a senior center in your community make sure it is involved in Senior Vaccination Season.** In a lot of communities the senior center acts as an immunization clinic – often done after lunch so that anyone who comes in can get shots.

- **Organize transportation for seniors who can't drive.**

- **Involve your church in Senior Vaccination Season.** A lot of churches around the state organize an immunization clinic after services on a Sunday in October. Work with your local health department to organize this event for your church.

- **Get the facts.** Flu and pneumonia shots will not make you sick! Some seniors think that this is the case but modern vaccinations will not harm you. If you have any questions about whether you should receive immunizations call your doctor and your local public health department.

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Think twice about upgrading a computer

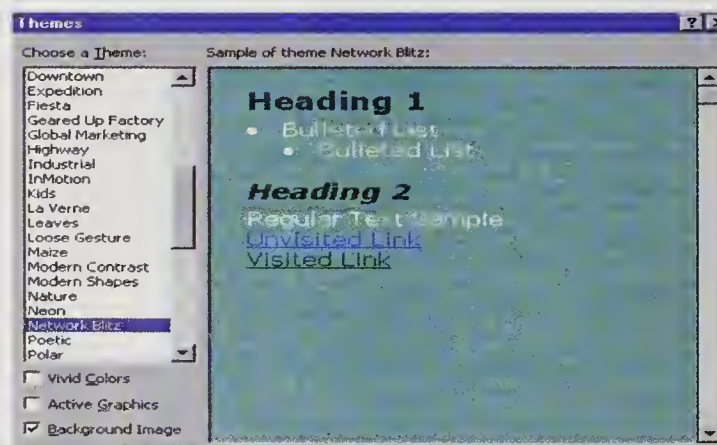
Does it make sense to upgrade a PC anymore? With new computers costing less than \$1,000, sometimes much less, why should you sink money into a PC that's already on its way to obsolescence?

Many computer users feel compelled to periodically add more memory, larger hard disks, faster processors, new motherboards, more powerful graphics cards, and other components to their PCs. More than bragging rights are involved. New operating systems and application programs have stiffer hardware requirements, forcing you to upgrade to keep up.

But upgrading has its pitfalls. Even those used to getting silicon under their fingernails frequently run into compatibility problems. The added RAM doesn't work with the existing RAM, the new hard disk prevents Windows from loading, the new graphics card conflicts with the old printer, the motherboard doesn't fit right inside the case, and so on.

If you have someone do the work for you, you still have to pay for the new components, along with the labor.

With this seemingly never-ending cycle of new software requiring new hardware requiring upgrading hassle and expense, it's as if the software and hardware industries are in cahoots, conspiring against you and your budget. Though this has led to impressive growth for the PC sector, the benefits to users have sometimes been less evident.



Microsoft Office 2000 provides advanced Web features, but it forces you to use other Microsoft products to take advantage of some of them and may not be a necessary upgrade.

The situation is changing. For most people, the speed bottleneck is no longer the PC itself but the Internet. Surfing the Web can be painfully slow with a 56K modem, no matter how fast your other hardware. Fortunately, relief is on the way with fast cable and DSL (digital subscriber line) modems, though cable and telecommunications companies haven't been quick in making these services widely available.

Another argument against new hardware components is that most software upgrades aren't as compelling as they once

were. The PC revolution is now two decades old, and most programs have already gone through many upgrades. "Mature" software has less room for further improvement. Many computer journalists, professionals and users are realizing that upgrading software shouldn't be a knee-jerk process.

If you're running Windows 95 without problems and don't need the USB (universal serial bus) support of Windows 98, save your money. Unless you oversee other Microsoft-only users and can benefit from Microsoft Office 2000's collaboration and Web-integration features, stick to Office 97.

Perhaps the most persuasive reason for not upgrading hardware piecemeal is the dramatic price decrease of new computers. The latest trend is the bundling of "free" PCs with paid Internet access.

Sure, some companies offering such services, such as DirectWeb of Mount Laurel, N.J., are experiencing start-up problems. These firms also lock you into using their Internet service for given periods of time. But this is the least expensive way to obtain a PC so far, and it looks to be a hit. Established retailers such as Best Buy and Circuit City are starting to jump onto this bandwagon.

Other companies, such as eMachines and Microworkz, have made names for themselves with their ultra low-cost computers. All this has decreased the price of all PCs, with name-brand (and often more reliable) vendors such as Gateway 2000, Dell, Compaq, and Hewlett Packard being forced to offer lines of PCs at their lowest price ever.

With powerful-enough new PCs so inexpensive, it can simply be more cost- and time-effective to buy cheap and keep for two years rather than buy expensive and incrementally upgrade components over four years.

Yet there are times when it does make sense to add components to a system. RAM is dirt cheap these days, and if your computer has only 16 or 32 megabytes of memory and you run more than two programs at once under Windows 95 or Windows 98, you'll gain a big performance boost by going to 32 or 64 megabytes.

If you're running out of storage, adding a second hard drive or a removable hard drive can also make sense.

Adding a new processor or motherboard usually does not make sense today. One exception is if you've already replaced the RAM, hard drive, and graphics card and don't want to lose this investment.

Still, buying a new PC is often the best upgrade. Along with a system in which all the components are compatible, you'll get a new warranty, which can be a money-saver if something goes wrong in the future.

But if your current system does everything you need, stick with it. Appropriate technology is the rationale here, with the watchword being, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

Reid Goldsborough is a syndicated columnist and author of the book "Straight Talk About the Information Superhighway." He can be reached at reidgold@netaxs.com or <http://members.home.net/reidgold>.



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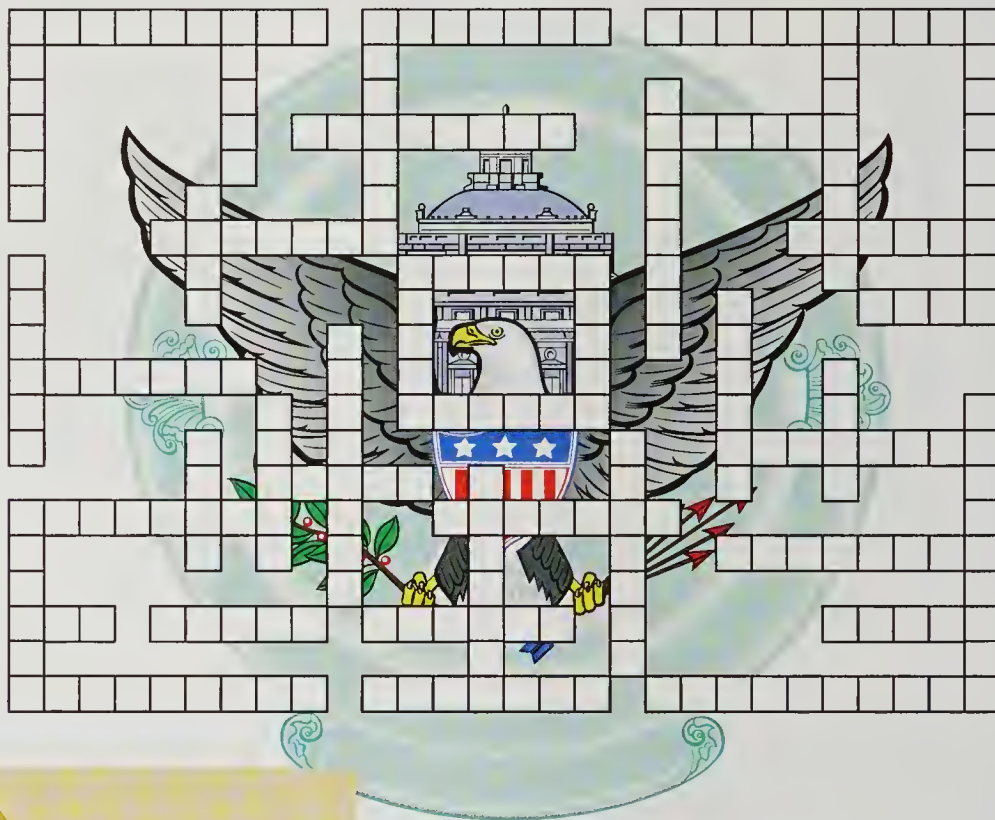
Presidents Crisscross



Of the 41 men who have been President of the United States, North Carolina lays claim to three as native sons; Andrew Jackson, James Knox Polk and Andrew Johnson. Polk was a native of Mecklenburg County and an 1818 graduate of UNC, the Latin salutatorian of his class. Johnson was a tailor's apprentice from Raleigh. Jackson, hero of the Battle of New Orleans, was born in the Waxhaw community on the frontier of the Carolinas, and both North and South Carolina claim him as a native son.

While the exact location of Jackson's birth is disputed, his name does have an exact location in this puzzle, as do the names of the other 40 Presidents. Can you put them in their proper places?

- | | | |
|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 4 Letters | Pierce | Garfield |
| Bush | Reagan | Harrison |
| Ford | Taylor | Harrison |
| Polk | Truman | McKinley |
| Taft | Wilson | Van Buren |
| 5 Letters | 7 Letters | 9 Letters |
| Adams | Clinton | Cleveland |
| Adams | Harding | Jefferson |
| Grant | Jackson | Roosevelt |
| Hayes | Johnson | Roosevelt |
| Nixon | Johnson | |
| Tyler | Kennedy | 10 Letters |
| | Lincoln | Eisenhower |
| 6 Letters | Madison | Washington |
| Arthur | 8 Letters | |
| Carter | Buchanan | |
| Hoover | Coolidge | |
| Monroe | Fillmore | |



Southern Exposure

UNC freshman requirements

Freshmen at UNC-Chapel Hill would be well advised not to yearn for "the good old days." A Raleigh newspaper of 1839 reported:

"Applicants in the Freshman Class are required to sustain a satisfactory examination on the grammar of the English, Latin and Greek Languages, including Latin Prosody. Mair's Introduction, Caesar's Commentaries (5 books), Ovid's Metamorphoses, Virgil's Bucolics, six books of the Aeneid, Sallust, Greek Testament, Greek Reader, Arithmetic and Worcester's Elements of Ancient and Modern Geography."

For the fall term there were registered 31 seniors, 47 juniors, 40 sophomores and 29 freshman.



Mad as a wet hen



"As mad as a wet hen" is an expression all of us are familiar with, but I didn't know until recently that the hen referred to was wet intentionally — not as a prank, but with good reason.

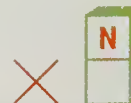
Back in the days when most everybody kept a yardful of chickens, a hen would take a notion from time to time to set, when the family would want her to go about her business of laying eggs in time for breakfast. To discourage her from setting, someone would plunge her plumage in a pail of water. This didn't always work, as the hen might go off and brood about it, but it did always make her mad.



| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| R | T | O | W | E | C | A | B | N | U |
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |

Use the blocks above to find the name of a North Carolina county and its county seat in the answer to this multiplication puzzle.

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| B | R | O | R | E | B | T | R | C | W | U | T |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |



| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
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|-----------|----------|--------|-----------|--------|-----------|--------|-----------|--------|
| | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female |
| 20 | --- | --- | 13.30 | 12.07 | 22.75 | 19.68 | 38.50 | 32.37 |
| 21 | --- | --- | 13.30 | 12.07 | 22.75 | 19.68 | 38.50 | 32.37 |
| 22 | --- | --- | 13.30 | 12.07 | 22.75 | 19.68 | 38.50 | 32.37 |
| 23 | --- | --- | 13.30 | 12.07 | 22.75 | 19.68 | 38.50 | 32.37 |
| 24 | --- | --- | 13.30 | 12.07 | 22.75 | 19.68 | 38.50 | 32.37 |
| 25 | --- | --- | 13.30 | 12.07 | 22.75 | 19.68 | 38.50 | 32.37 |
| 26 | --- | --- | 13.38 | 12.16 | 22.96 | 19.90 | 38.93 | 32.81 |
| 27 | --- | --- | 13.47 | 12.16 | 23.18 | 19.90 | 39.37 | 32.81 |
| 28 | --- | --- | 13.56 | 12.25 | 23.40 | 20.12 | 39.81 | 33.25 |
| 29 | --- | --- | 13.65 | 12.25 | 23.62 | 20.12 | 40.25 | 33.25 |
| 30 | --- | --- | 13.65 | 12.33 | 23.62 | 20.34 | 40.25 | 33.68 |
| 31 | --- | --- | 13.73 | 12.33 | 23.84 | 20.34 | 40.68 | 33.68 |
| 32 | --- | --- | 13.82 | 12.42 | 24.06 | 20.56 | 41.12 | 34.12 |
| 33 | --- | --- | 13.91 | 12.42 | 24.28 | 20.56 | 41.56 | 34.12 |
| 34 | --- | --- | 14.00 | 12.51 | 24.50 | 20.78 | 42.00 | 34.56 |
| 35 | --- | --- | 14.26 | 12.68 | 25.15 | 21.21 | 43.31 | 35.43 |
| 36 | --- | --- | 14.70 | 12.95 | 26.25 | 21.87 | 45.50 | 36.75 |
| 37 | --- | --- | 15.22 | 13.30 | 27.56 | 22.75 | 48.12 | 38.50 |
| 38 | --- | --- | 15.75 | 13.65 | 28.87 | 23.62 | 50.75 | 40.25 |
| 39 | --- | --- | 16.45 | 14.08 | 30.62 | 24.71 | 54.25 | 42.43 |
| 40 | --- | --- | 17.06 | 14.61 | 32.15 | 26.03 | 57.31 | 45.06 |
| 41 | --- | --- | 17.93 | 15.13 | 34.34 | 27.34 | 61.60 | 47.63 |
| 42 | --- | --- | 18.90 | 15.75 | 36.75 | 28.87 | 66.50 | 50.75 |
| 43 | --- | --- | 20.03 | 16.62 | 39.59 | 31.06 | 72.18 | 55.12 |
| 44 | --- | --- | 21.43 | 17.41 | 43.09 | 33.03 | 79.18 | 59.06 |
| 45 | --- | --- | 22.92 | 18.37 | 46.81 | 35.43 | 86.62 | 63.87 |

MONTHLY RATES

| Issue Age | \$50,000 | | \$100,000 | | \$250,000 | | \$500,000 | |
|-----------|----------|--------|-----------|--------|-----------|--------|-----------|--------|
| | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female |
| 46 | --- | --- | 24.58 | 19.33 | 50.96 | 37.84 | 94.93 | 68.68 |
| 47 | --- | --- | 26.16 | 20.38 | 54.90 | 40.46 | 102.81 | 73.93 |
| 48 | --- | --- | 27.82 | 21.35 | 59.06 | 42.87 | 111.12 | 78.75 |
| 49 | --- | --- | 29.57 | 22.40 | 63.43 | 45.50 | 119.87 | 84.00 |
| 50 | --- | --- | 31.50 | 23.62 | 68.25 | 48.56 | 129.50 | 90.12 |
| 51 | --- | --- | 33.86 | 25.02 | 74.15 | 52.06 | 141.31 | 97.12 |
| 52 | --- | --- | 36.48 | 26.60 | 80.71 | 56.00 | 154.43 | 105.00 |
| 53 | --- | --- | 39.63 | 28.43 | 88.59 | 60.59 | 170.18 | 114.18 |
| 54 | --- | --- | 43.48 | 30.62 | 98.21 | 66.06 | 189.43 | 125.12 |
| 55 | 27.43 | 20.08 | 47.86 | 33.16 | 109.15 | 72.40 | 211.31 | 137.81 |
| 56 | 29.92 | 21.56 | 52.85 | 36.13 | 121.62 | 79.84 | 236.25 | 152.68 |
| 57 | 32.68 | 23.10 | 58.36 | 39.20 | 135.40 | 87.50 | 263.81 | 168.00 |
| 58 | 35.65 | 24.76 | 64.31 | 42.52 | 150.28 | 95.81 | 293.56 | 184.62 |
| 59 | 38.89 | 26.60 | 70.78 | 46.20 | 166.46 | 105.00 | 325.93 | 203.00 |
| 60 | 42.30 | 28.52 | 77.61 | 50.05 | 183.53 | 114.62 | 360.06 | 222.25 |
| 61 | 45.98 | 30.58 | 84.96 | 54.16 | 201.90 | 124.90 | 396.81 | 242.81 |
| 62 | 49.87 | 32.76 | 92.75 | 58.53 | 221.37 | 135.84 | 435.75 | 264.68 |
| 63 | 53.98 | 35.08 | 100.97 | 63.17 | 241.93 | 147.43 | 476.87 | 287.87 |
| 64 | 58.36 | 37.53 | 109.72 | 68.07 | 263.81 | 159.68 | 520.62 | 312.37 |
| 65 | 62.95 | 40.11 | 118.91 | 73.23 | 286.78 | 172.59 | 566.56 | 338.18 |

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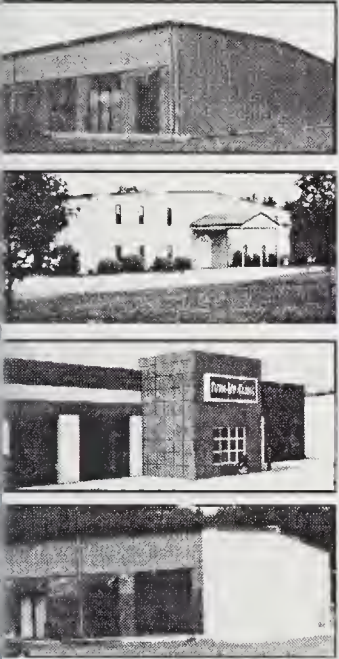
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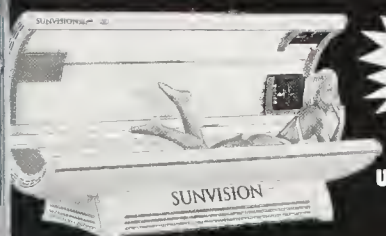
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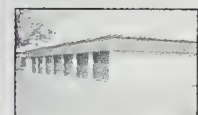
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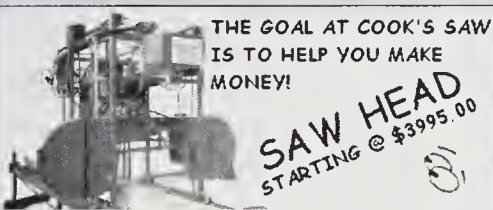
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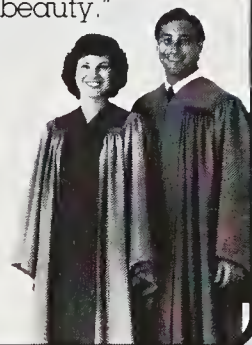
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Forest Festival Day
Oct. 2, Pisgah Forest
Cradle of Forestry,
(828) 877-3130,
www.CradleofForestry.com

Woodsmen's Meet
Oct. 2, Pisgah Forest
Cradle of Forestry, (828) 877-
3130, www.CradleofForestry.com

Farm City Day
Oct. 2, Hendersonville
Jackson Park, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.,
free, (828) 697-4884

Art in the Park
Oct. 2, Blowing Rock
10 a.m.-5 p.m., free,
(828) 295-7851

Piedmont (between I-77 & I-95)

Portrait Pendants Art Exhibit
Through Sept. 26, Raleigh
N.C. Museum of Art,
(919) 839-6262

"I Am Woman"
Through Sept. 30, Gastonia
Art exhibit, Art 1, (704) 854-8800

Union Co. Veterans in War
Through Sept. 30, Waxhaw
Museum of the Waxhaws,
(704) 843-1832

**Children's Fashions
from 19th Century**
Through Nov. 6, Charlotte
Mint Museum of Art,
(704) 337-2000

**From Ship to Shore:
Marine Paintings**
Through Dec. 5, Charlotte
Mint Museum of Art,
(704) 337-2000

Coastal Plain (east of I-95)

Dale Chihuly: Installations

Through Jan. 9, Charlotte
Mint Museum of Craft + Design,
(704) 337-2097

Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show

Sept. 3-6, Raleigh
Kerr Scott Building, N.C. State
Fairgrounds, \$3, (804) 746-7663

"Smoke on the Mountain"

Sept. 3-19, Sanford
Musical, Temple Theatre Performing
Arts Center, (919) 774-4512

The Camera's Eye Photography Show

Sept. 7-24, Rockingham
Thomas H. Leath Memorial Library,
(910) 997-6008

Folk Fest VIII

Sept. 11, Winston-Salem
Reynolda House, 12-6 p.m., \$7, free
for children under 12,
(336) 725-5325

Heritage Day at Schiele Museum

Sept. 11, Gastonia
Schiele Museum, (704) 866-6901

Bush Hill Heritage Festival

Sept. 11, Archdale
Trindale Road (Hwy. 62),
9 a.m.-4 p.m., free, (336) 434-2073

Gourd Festival

Sept. 12, Cary
Cary Community Center,
10 a.m.-5 p.m., \$2,
(919) 362-4357,
www.twincreek.com/gourds/

Senior Day

Sept. 15, Spencer
N.C. Transportation Museum,
(704) 636-2889

"Gold Fever"

Sept. 16-Oct. 2, Charlotte
Omnimax film, Discovery Place,
(704) 372-6261,
www.discoveryplace.org

Fire and Life Safety Day

Sept. 18, Greensboro
Piedmont Triad Farmers Market,
(336) 605-9157

Adult Craft Workshop: Rainsticks

Sept. 18, Waxhaw
Museum of Waxhaws,
(704) 843-1832

Harvest Festival & Art Faire

Sept. 18, Clayton
Downtown, 10 a.m., free,
(919) 553-6352

Tar River Festival

Sept. 18, Louisburg
Riverbend Park and downtown,
10 a.m.-4 p.m., (919) 496-3056,
www.Franklinconchamber.com

Flat River Antique Engine & Tractor

Sept. 17-19, Roxboro
Also car show, for Hospice, Optimist
Park, \$5 adult, free under 12,
(336) 364-2364

Antique Truck Show

Sept. 18, Spencer
N.C. Transportation Museum,
(704) 636-2889

Deep River Park Festival

Sept. 18, Gulf
Deep River Park, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.,
(919) 837-2361

Fall Herb Days

Sept. 17-18, Raleigh
N.C. State Farmers Market,
(919) 733-7417

Cat Fanciers Association Show

Sept. 18, Winston-Salem
Benton Convention Center,
10 a.m.-4 p.m., \$5 adults,
\$3 seniors, \$2 children,
(336) 282-3089

Sweet Potato & Apple Dessert Contest

Sept. 24, Raleigh
N.C. State Farmers Market,
(919) 733-7417

Antique Festival

Sept. 24-25, Liberty
8 a.m.-6 p.m., (336) 622-3040

Winslow Homer Prints & Paintings

Sept. 24-Nov. 28, Winston-Salem
Exhibit, Reynolda House,
(336) 725-5325

Hospice Benefit Vehicle Show

Sept. 25, Level Cross
8 a.m.-4 p.m., (336) 685-9964

Grape Day

Sept. 25, Greensboro
Piedmont Triad Farmers Market,
(336) 605-9157

Stokes Stomp Festival

Sept. 25-26, Danbury
Moratock Park, (910) 593-8159

Fall Herb Festival

Oct. 1-2, Greensboro
Piedmont Triad Farmers Market,
(336) 605-9157

Gold Fever Festival

Oct. 2, Charlotte
(800) 722-1994

Glory Days:

Coastal Carolina Baseball

Through Oct. 31, Elizabeth City
Museum of the Albemarle, Free,
(252) 335-1453

Hatteras Island Craft Show

Sept. 3-4, Hatteras
Civic Center, (252) 995-4656

Dinner Show

Sept. 4, Rose Hill
Duplin Winery, 7 p.m.,
(800) 774-9634

N.C. Women Making History

Sept. 9, Hertford
Lecture, Newbold-White House,
(252) 335-1453

Clifton Davis Celebrity Golf Classic

Sept. 10-12, Elizabeth City
Albemarle Plantation, (252) 335-
3594, www.elizcity.com

Bluegrass Festival

Sept. 10-12, Clement
Rocking Horse Music Ranch,
(919) 567-2614

Boats Made of Native Woods

Sept. 11, New Bern
Lecture, Tryon Palace,
(252) 514-4900

Hearth & Harvest Festival

Sept. 11, Hertford
Newbold-White House,
11 a.m.-4 p.m., (252) 426-7567

Indian Summer Festival

Sept. 11, Hertford
Downtown, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., dance at
8 p.m., (252) 426-2021

13th Annual Landmark Competition

Sept. 12-Oct. 9, Elizabeth City
Pasquotank Arts Council Gallery,
free, (252) 338-6455,
www.elizcity.com

The Search for

"Queen Anne's Revenge"

Sept. 16-Oct. 13, Windsor
Traveling exhibit, Roanoke-Chowan
Heritage Center, Hope Plantation,
(252) 794-3140

12th Annual Singing Convention

Sept. 17-19, Elizabeth City
Gospel music, (252) 264-2079,
www.elizcity.com

Psychology: It's More Than You Think!

Sept. 17-Jan. 2, Durham
Exhibit, N.C. Museum of Life
Sciences, (919) 220-5429,
www.ncmls.org

Harbor Days, Waterfront Arts

Festival and Moth Boat Regatta
Sept. 18-19, Elizabeth City
Free, (252) 335-1453,
www.elizcity.com

Historic Masonry Restoration

Sept. 21, Edenton
Chowan County Courthouse and
Swain Senior Center, 7 p.m.,
(252) 335-1453

NTPA Truck and Tractor Pull

Sept. 24-25, Elizabeth City
Morgans Corner, (252) 771-2703

Home Show 1999

Sept. 24-25, Elizabeth City
ECSU Kermit E. White Center, \$2,
(252) 335-4365, www.elizcity.com

Living History and Harvest Days

Sept. 24-25, Windsor
Hope Plantation, (252) 794-3140

Motor Fair 1999

Sept. 25, Elizabeth City
Southgate Mall front parking lot,
free, (252) 338-2848,
www.elizcity.com

The Ebony Muse: 19th Century African-American Music & Poetry

Sept. 29, New Bern
Concert/lecture, Tryon Palace,
(252) 514-4900

Fall Craft Show

Oct. 1-3, Elizabeth City
Southgate Mall, free,
(252) 338-2848, www.elizcity.com

N.C. Swampfest

Oct. 2, Gates
Gates County High School,
10 a.m.-10 p.m., (252) 357-1963

African-American Festival

Nov. 6, Murfreesboro
Hertford County Middle School,
10 a.m.-6 p.m., (252) 398-8192

Deadlines:

Nov. . . . Sept. 24
Dec. . . . Oct. 26

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A buyer's guide
by Sharon O'Malley

These sure aren't grandma's toasters! Bread browning meets the 21st century with these electric beauties. Their focus is on style and perfect temperature gauging.



Tempting Toasters

1. Chrome dome.

With its sleek design and lustrous finish, the Avante Deluxe Chrome Model 8747 features extra-wide, two-slice slots and precision browning controls. This extras-packed cooker comes complete with a 950-watt motor, reheat functions for warming pre-toasted breads and a defrost selection for frozen goodies. Order yours from T-Fal for \$59.99 by calling 800-395-8325.

2. Smart move.

When you think of chips in the kitchen, potatoes usually come to mind. Sunbeam introduces another kind—computer chips—with its Toast Logic Toaster. The ASIC (Application Specific Integrated Circuit) chip regulates time and temperature—the technical way to provide consummate crispness. A window allows monitoring of your pumpnickel's progression, and bread guides keep slices centered to ensure even heating. Model 3802 is available at major department stores for around \$35. Call Sunbeam at 800-831-9678 to find one near you.

3. Complete coverage.

Imagine how much better your summer tan would be if you could sit suspended while the sun circled you! Now you can brown your bread this way with Cuisinart's Heat Surround Electronic Toaster. Moving heaters encircle each slice, making even browning as simple as pushing a button. Two-inch slots have room for everything from rolls to bagels, and a slide-out crumb tray promotes easy clean-up after toasting your messiest muffins. A high-rise carriage raises toastables almost two inches above the rim, making fried fingers a thing of the past. Call Cuisinart for more information, or to order Model CPT-30 for \$70, at 800-726-0190.



4. Crisp idea.

What good is hot, toasty bread if what's inside the sandwich is cold? Toasting's not just for breakfast anymore with the Meal Maker Sandwich Toaster. Grill an entire meal in minutes with this time-saver, roomy enough for four sandwiches, yet compactly versatile: It stores upright to reduce counter clutter. The lid locks to seal in your favorite fillings—even melted cheese. Its nonstick surface wipes clean with ease. Call Hamilton Beach at 800-851-8900 for more information about Model 25400, which is available for around \$15 at Bradlees and Kitchen Collection.



5. Functional form.

This Opera toaster is dressed to the nines, ready to add a touch of fine art to your kitchen. Created by German designer Wolfgang Jonsson, the bright facade adds sophisticated cheer to any decor. Its 850 watts, housed in a cool-to-touch casing, are guided by an electronic toast control. The removable crumb tray keeps the artful appliance looking its best, while self-adjusting toaster slots do the same for your toast. You can find the Opera toaster, Toastmaster Model B675, for about \$70 at Bed, Bath & Beyond or by calling 800-947-3744.



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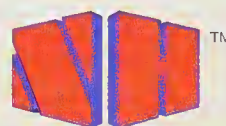
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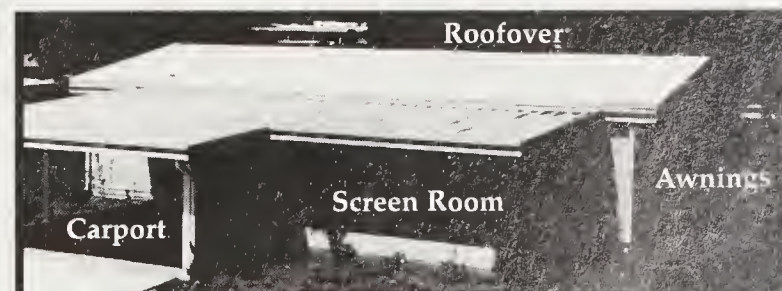
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by Hank Smith

Seeds of perennial flowers, planted in shady areas, will be ready to transplant by late October or November. Refrigerate pansy seed a few days before sowing to have established plants to bloom in late autumn and during mild periods of winter. By removing side flower buds of a camellia, growth energy is forced into the remaining bud. This creates a larger, well-shaped flower at blooming time. Disbudding also benefits dahlias and roses. Plant perennials such as delphinium, hollyhock, Snow-in-Summer, daisies, flax, pyrethrum and Stoke's aster. Geraniums rooted for winter houseplants should be potted in mellow, loamy soil. Place in well-drained pots. Do not over-water.



Order now

To insure getting desired varieties of fruits, nuts and berries to be planted in the fall and winter, place orders now. At most nurseries you may specify the date you'd prefer plants shipped. This way, you'll have plenty of time to prepare planting holes.

Vegetables

Now's the time to prepare for early fall planting of greens and salad crops. Put weeds and summer crop residue in compost bin or pile. Mix fertilizer into soil and prepare rows or beds for planting after a good rain settles soil. If your area has no water problems, start planting in September. If nematodes have been a problem, treat infected areas with an approved nematocide. Most require a two-week waiting period between treating and planting. Follow package instructions. This month plant chard, kale, beets, carrots, turnips, mustard, onions (seed or sets), lettuce and radishes. For best germination of lettuce and other small-seeded crops, keep soil moist and somewhat cooler with daily sprinklings. If possible, sprinkle water a couple of times a day when temperatures are high. Shading seeded beds with newspapers or leafy branches will help.

Dahlia delight

Dahlias lend strong color impact to the fall landscape. Many varieties and bloom sizes are available. Tall-growing plants need to be tied to support stakes for protection from wind and rain damage. The removal of flower buds will increase size of large-flowering types. Leave a single bud at the end of each stem. When gathering blooms for floral designs, plunge blooms into a deep container of warm water when cut. Then single cut in a candle flame. Reimmerse in warm water up to the flower. Refrigerate until placed in the vase. After the first killing frost, cut stalks to within six inches of ground. Leave tubers in soil for a week to ten days to become fully ripened. Then carefully dig tubers so no injury occurs. Turn tubers upside down so sap or moisture drains from the stalks. Expose to full sunlight for several hours until thoroughly dry. During winter, store tubers in a dry, frost-free place. Store in box of dry sand or peat moss with tubers fully covered to prevent them from becoming shriveled.

Fall feeding lawns

Established lawns benefit from autumn fertilization. Use a complete fertilizer such as 8-8-8, 12-12-12 or 14-14-14 analysis, which contains quickly available nitrogen. A total of about 15 to 20 pounds per 1,000 square feet is adequate for most lawns. Apply half in September, half in October. Apply when grass is dry. Water fertilizer off grass into soil.

Groom roses

Roses need grooming for fall flowers. Plants will produce better blooms if faded flowers are removed to prevent seed formation. Roses and other plants exert an amazing amount of energy in seed production. Prune away all "blind" twigs. Cut plants back lightly to encourage flower bud formation. If rainfall is scant, soak roots at least once a week. Keep water off foliage. These treatments should reward you with fall blooms that are better than those in spring.

Cover crops enrich soil

A most reliable method of improving poor soil is to plant "green manure" cover crops, such as bur clover, soybeans, cowpeas, lespedeza and hairy vetch, in early fall. Allow crop to grow over winter. In the spring, about four to six weeks before planting vegetables, plow cover crop into soil. The cover crop's roots bear nitrogen-fixing nodules. Leaves extract nitrogen from the atmosphere, conduct it to the roots, and then into soil.

Over-winter color

Some plants can be saved for spring transplanting outdoors. Multiply begonias, impatiens, coleus and geraniums by rooting cuttings in a mix of rich garden soil, builders sand and peat moss. Place outdoors in semi-shade for several days, then gradually expose to sunshine. Place in a sunny window.

Houseplant care

Prepare indoor plants for the winter season. Any that summer-vacationed outdoors need to be brought indoors before winter. Many are tropical in origin and can be injured by temperatures in the 40s. Inspect closely for signs of insects or diseases. Make necessary spray and/or dust applications. Remove unsightly foliage; pinch back growth as needed to shape up plants. Root-bound plants need repotting. Carefully tap pots on the table edge while holding upside down. Loosen root ball with fingers or a dinner fork. Repot in a slightly larger container. Pack soil around edge of root ball. Water. Apply more soil to fill voids.

Necessary moisture

When watering during dry periods, apply enough so moisture will move downward to root system. It is helpful to make a 3- to 4-inch mound of soil approximately 18 to 24 inches outward from shrubs; 36 to 42 inches around trees. Let water flood inside mound to soak downward to roots. With overhead irrigation on roses, apply water at a time other than late afternoon. Overnight moisture on leaves encourages disease. Many hanging baskets require water twice daily, as they dry out rapidly in heat and wind.

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It's Apple Time

Before you buy apples, check for color (based on the variety of apple), firmness and freedom from bruises. To store your apples, place small quantities in plastic bags in the refrigerator to prevent shriveling and transfer of odors. In the refrigerator, apples will keep from one to two weeks.

North Carolina has over 300 commercial apple operations comprising 9,000 bearing acres of apple orchards. In 1998, North Carolina produced 4.5 millions of bushels of apples. Henderson County is ranked first in the number of apple trees in North Carolina with 77 percent of the state's total. The four major varieties grown here are Red Delicious, Rome, Golden Delicious and Gala.

For a copy of a directory to North Carolina's roadside apples markets, contact the N.C. Dept. of Agriculture, Western N.C. Farmers Market, Division of Marketing, 570 Brevard Road, Asheville, NC 28806.



For more Carolina Country recipes, visit Carolina Kitchen online: www.carolinacountry.com

Apple Pecan Cake

3 large eggs
2 cups sugar
1 cup vegetable oil
2 teaspoons vanilla
2 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup all-purpose flour

1 teaspoon baking soda
 $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon salt
2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
4 cups peeled, chopped Granny Smith apples
1 cup chopped pecans

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Beat eggs at medium speed until thick and pale. Gradually add sugar, beat until blended. Add oil and vanilla; beat at low speed until blended. Combine flour, baking soda, salt and cinnamon; add to beaten mixture and stir until blended. Stir in apples and pecans. Pour into greased and floured 12-cup bundt pan. Bake 1 hour 25 minutes or until tester comes out clean. Cool in pan on wire rack 5 minutes. Remove from pan; cool completely. Glaze.

Cream Cheese Glaze

3 ounces cream cheese, softened
2 to 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoons milk
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup confectioners sugar, sifted

Beat cream cheese at medium speed until fluffy. Add milk and vanilla; beat until smooth. Add powdered sugar gradually, beating until smooth. Yields: 1 cup glaze

Upside-down Apple Cobbler

$\frac{1}{4}$ cup butter
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup firmly packed light brown sugar
3 cups Granny Smith (or other tart variety) apple slices
2 tablespoons orange juice concentrate, thawed
2 teaspoons lemon juice

$\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon ground cinnamon
 $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon ground allspice
1 refrigerated pie crust
Whipped cream or ice cream

Melt butter in a 10-inch ovenproof skillet; add sugar and cook, stirring constantly, over medium heat 3 minutes or until bubbly. Remove from heat, and cool slightly. Arrange apple slices over sugar mixture. Drizzle apple slices with orange juice and lemon juice. Sprinkle with cinnamon and allspice. Unfold pastry and cut a circle 10 inches across. Remove and discard trimmings. Place circle over apples (do not seal pastry to skillet). Bake at 400 degrees for 20 minutes or until golden brown. Remove from oven, and cool for about 5 minutes. Invert onto a serving dish, and serve with whipped cream or ice cream.

Baked Apples

Wash and core apples. Stick sides of apple with knife, and place apples in ovenproof baking dish. Fill apple with sugar, top with nutmeg, cinnamon and butter. Fill baking dish halfway with water. Place in oven at 350 degrees until apples are soft.

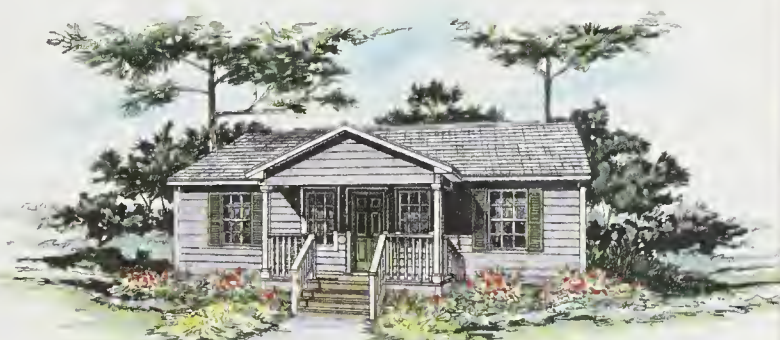
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